



# JEFFERSON JOURNAL

September/October 2022

## Meth Has Changed, And It's Sabotaging Oregon's Mental Health System



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# Planning For The Future

In Southern Oregon and Northern California, summer is the season for floating rivers, enjoying music at outdoor festivals, harvesting gardens, and taking jaunts to the coast. For JPR, it's a season for tracking wildfire activity, covering local events and making progress on the many projects we have underway to improve our mountain-top transmitter sites before the snow flies.

This summer, we've also taken time to participate in National Make-A-Will Month, which took place in August. While most people know that having a will is a smart thing to do, most people don't have one according to a recent national survey. The biggest reason why: They just haven't gotten around to it. National Make-A-Will Month is an attempt to break through this inertia and encourage more people to take the proactive step of making a will.

While thinking about and planning for the end of one's life probably won't be remembered as a high point of summer, it might be one of the most enduring and meaningful things you do. To make the process easy and remove some of the logistical hurdles associated with making a will, JPR has partnered with an organization called FreeWill, which has pioneered an easy-to-use online platform that helps you create a legally valid will in about 20-minutes—California residents can also create a Living Trust. The platform is centered around including charitable organizations in your plans, but that is not a requirement to use the tool. FreeWill was created by co-founder and co-CEO Patrick Schmitt, who developed digital fundraising strategies for political campaigns. Schmitt told the *New York Times* that he created the FreeWill platform out of frustration. He wanted to write a will before taking a trip abroad, leaving his assets to some of his favorite charities, but he found the existing services cumbersome. "I had run email fund-raising for President Obama in 2009 and 2010," he said. "That whole crew put thousands of hours into making it really easy for you to give \$27. That it was so hard to give 2,000 times that amount was a light-bulb moment for me."

Over the years, JPR has been the fortunate beneficiary of several estate gifts that have made a lasting impact on our organization, including bequests that helped us build our new studio facility and purchase a grand piano for our live performance studio. Since these kinds of gifts are not recurring, we generally use them for one-time projects that will have long-term benefits for our listeners or invest the proceeds in our endowment fund, which generates a sustainable annual revenue stream to help fund our service to the region. By managing planned gifts in this way, they serve as a catalyst for the long-term health of our organization and have a lasting impact on future generations of JPR listeners.

As you take steps to plan for your future, we hope you'll include drafting a will high on your to-do list. And, we hope that our FreeWill online tool, which is available at [ijpr.org](http://ijpr.org), can simplify what can be a daunting task and help you develop an estate plan that creates a meaningful legacy and reflects your lifelong values.



Paul Westhelle is  
JPR's Executive Director.



# Meth Has Changed, And It's Sabotaging Oregon's Mental Health System

By Emily Green

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is Part 1 of a two-part series about how — despite a windfall of new funding — the state has no plan to address the “new meth” that is overwhelming behavioral health providers and inflaming ongoing crises across the state.

Every time Anthony Ware got out of prison, he noticed the meth in Portland tasted more like chemicals.

“My daily routine was like, wake up, eat a piece, let that kick in, and then smoke to keep my high,” he said of that time in his life.

It was the “good stuff,” cooked by local bikers, that got Ware hooked on meth nearly two decades ago, he said. Then the drug cartels started making it. By 2018, the drug reminded him of “paint fumes.”

The changes Ware witnessed were at the heart of an article published in *The Atlantic* magazine this past October. In it, journalist Sam Quinones contended that cartels’ new formula for making meth is driving people into the throes of psychosis and homelessness at a much higher rate. With this “new meth,” he wrote, “traffickers forged a new population of mentally ill Americans.”

In 2020, Oregon jumped from having the ninth highest rate of meth use in the country to the highest.

The observation holds particular relevance for Oregon, which has the highest reported rate of meth use in the nation. And more than two dozen interviews by The Lund Report with those involved in Oregon’s behavioral health system reveal that at every level, it’s well known that meth has changed — and that it’s inflaming Oregon’s already blistering addiction, mental health and homelessness crises like never before.

At the state’s largest psychiatric facility, the Oregon State Hospital, the overcrowding that has dominated headlines for

years is, employees say, driven by a flood of patients whose mental illness is intertwined with meth. This, in turn, is closing out other acutely ill patients who instead are warehoused at other Oregon hospitals, increasing costs and taxing staff.

But despite widespread awareness among insiders, there's been little public recognition of the outsized role meth is playing in problems plaguing Oregon's mental health system. There's also no coordinated approach to address it.

Experts, advocates and local officials say that needs to change.

"We're up against formidable challenges right now in Oregon," said Dr. Todd Korthuis, the head of addiction medicine at Oregon Health & Science University. "Not only do we have increases in methamphetamine use, but we have rapidly spiking increases in the number of fentanyl overdoses. And it's going to require an all-hands-on-deck approach to really tackle all of these issues at once – with multiple different approaches."

## A rise in meth use and related mental illness

In 2004, a sheriff's deputy in Multnomah County came up with a public awareness campaign called Faces of Meth to highlight the drug's corrosive impact.

Two years later, focus on the drug and its connection to psychotic behavior prompted Oregon lawmakers to adopt the country's first ban on over-the-counter sales of ephedrine, the plant-based main ingredient for the small-scale local manufacturing then dominating the market. Congress soon followed suit.

Mexican cartels, however, promptly flooded the Oregon market, and began using a different method to make the drug, known as phenyl-2-propanone, or P2P. It was synthetic, cheaper and more potent.

It's this P2P meth that Quinones, in The Atlantic, contended more frequently leads to mental illness. The link between meth and psychosis isn't new, though studies validating the connection primarily focused on older iterations of the drug.

With symptoms like paranoia, delusions and hallucinations, it's difficult for practitioners to differentiate between mental illnesses like schizophrenia and those that are meth induced. A common characteristic is for the afflicted person to believe someone or something is after them. At its worst, this can result in aggressive and even violent behavior.

Despite Oregon's early attempts to combat meth, its reach has only worsened:

- ▶ In 2020, Oregon jumped from having the ninth highest rate of meth use in the country to the highest, according to the most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health data.
- ▶ The volume of meth confiscated on Oregon highways saw a 75% increase between 2016 and 2020, according to drug trafficking reports.
- ▶ Meth-related emergency department visits in Oregon climbed about 20% in both urban and rural areas between 2018 and 2021, and last year, urban hospitals alone saw more than 16,000 meth-related emergency department visits, according to Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems data.
- ▶ The number of those patients spending more than 24 hours in an emergency department bed doubled during that time.



BRUCE DAMONTE / OREGON STATE HOSPITAL

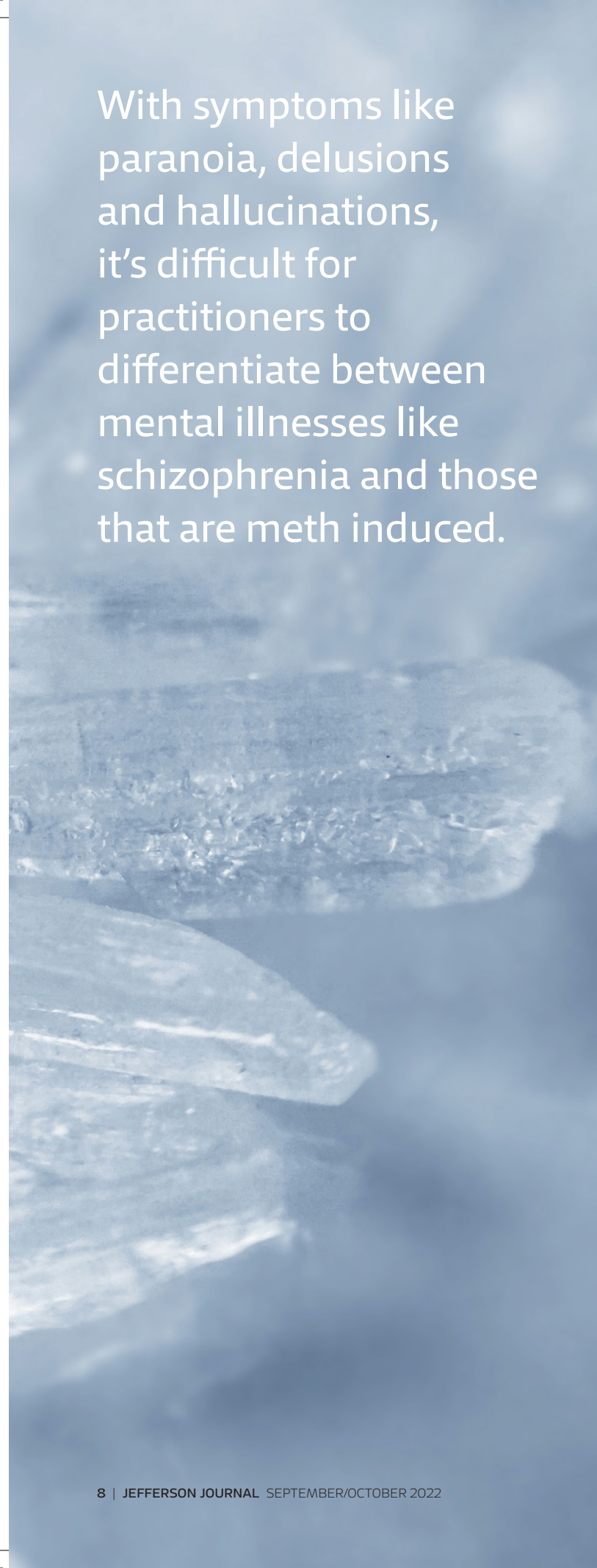
Despite widespread substance use among patients facing criminal charges at Oregon State Hospital, addiction treatment is typically not an option.



BRUCE DAMONTE / OREGON STATE HOSPITAL

The surge of patients facing criminal charges means there are not enough beds in the state facility for patients who aren't. In December 2019, Oregon State Hospital management let hospitals know it would no longer accept civilly committed patients.

- ▶ The price of meth has dropped to as little as \$5 for a three-day high, while the potency has increased. Anecdotal reports suggest meth overtook heroin as the drug of choice among Portlanders experiencing homelessness as early as 2007.
- ▶ In 2019, Portland's only sobering center closed, with its operator, Central City Concern, citing an inability to safely sober the increasing number of people coming in who were behaving violently and erratically while under the influence of meth and similar drugs.
- ▶ Methamphetamine contributed to more deaths in Oregon than fentanyl and heroin in 2019, 2020 and 2021.



With symptoms like paranoia, delusions and hallucinations, it's difficult for practitioners to differentiate between mental illnesses like schizophrenia and those that are meth induced.

Michelle Guyton and fellow forensic psychologist Alexander Millkey of Northwest Forensic Institute, LLC in Portland evaluate criminal defendants' ability to stand trial for courts around the state. And they've been busy — over the last decade, the number of people deemed unfit to proceed with their criminal defense in Oregon has nearly tripled, according to state data.

Guyton and Millkey told The Lund Report that nearly everyone they evaluate uses meth.

"Frankly," Millkey said, "if you have somebody who's not using meth, it's a very refreshing palate cleanser."

In recent years, they said they've seen an increase in the number of defendants experiencing meth-induced psychosis. It usually resolves within a couple of weeks, but for some, it can take months or even years — if it's resolved at all — Millkey said.

Guyton said the line between meth-induced psychosis and traditional mental health disorders has become "increasingly grayer."

"I agree with the Atlantic article that new meth is a different bird," Millkey said. "I don't know if I'm seeing meth induced psychosis that lasts longer. But I do know that I am seeing more meth induced psychosis."

### A recipe for severe illness

Most experts interviewed for this story emphasized the high rate of homelessness among the most acutely psychotic people who use meth.

Annual Point in Time surveys, which take a one-day snapshot of homelessness each January, show that between 2015 and 2022, homelessness counts more than tripled in central Oregon and went up by nearly 40% in Multnomah County.

For many unhoused people, living outside evokes a hypervigilant state marked by trauma and sleeplessness. Often, self-care doesn't happen. When these factors combine with meth use, experts say, it can be a recipe for longer lasting and more severe psychotic events. This can be especially true for people who are genetically prone to developing mental health disorders.

But homelessness and meth use don't result in psychosis for everyone.

Quinones' article in *The Atlantic* featured Rachel Solotaroff, then the executive director of Central City Concern, Portland's largest homeless services provider. He quoted her saying that the "degree of mental-health disturbance; the wave of psychosis; the profound, profound disorganization" among her patients who use meth was something she had "never seen before." She also told Quinones, "If they're not raging and agitated, they can be completely noncommunicative ... I've never experienced something like this — where there's no way in to that person."

Earlier this year, Solotaroff told The Lund Report she was talking about the behavioral effects of meth use at their most extreme during that interview.

Many of her patients "use meth regularly, or use meth intermittently, and do not present with that kind of symptomology," she said. "I never meant to convey that there is a population of folks for whom there is no hope or there is no opportunity for connection."

Ware, who noticed changes in meth over 15 years of use, never became psychotic, though he did struggle with mental health issues.

He's mixed race and felt neither his Black nor his white peers accepted him. He eventually found comradery in gang life, committed robberies and stole cars. Childhood abuse, three stabbings and a car accident left him with anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder, he said.

Now 35, Ware has been drug-free for more than a year on the Oregon Coast, and he's looking to the future. He believes meth didn't cause him to become delusional because he kept himself fed, rested and hydrated. When he acted out of character, he said his "homeboys" would tell him to "get his ass to sleep."

And, he was housed.

He has friends who were not as lucky. He said a few have lost their minds to meth. "It's like talking to a brick wall," he said.



EMILY GREEN/THE LUND REPORT

Anthony Ware, 35, has been in recovery from meth use for more than a year.

## Meth strains state psychiatric hospital

The mental health impacts of meth and homelessness are apparent at Oregon State Hospital, which has 546 psychiatric beds between its hospitals in Salem and Junction City.

Last year, the per-patient daily cost of care there was \$1,447, with Oregon taxpayers footing most of the bill. The state health authority director, Pat Allen, has called it the "world's most expensive homeless shelter."

It's where people facing criminal charges who are found mentally unfit are often recommended for admission. Staff at the hospital say the growing number of these patients who are homeless and use meth are taking longer to treat due to increasingly severe illness.

"Folks are coming through the door more acutely, psychiatrically ill, more psychotic – a little bit harder to stabilize," said

Sara Walker, the psychiatric hospital's chief medical officer, adding that it's hard to tell how much of the trend is meth, and how much of it is societal problems such as homelessness.

Walker said that patients being restored for prosecution are typically at the hospital for about 90 days, which is not long enough to make a definitive mental health diagnosis for someone who has been using meth. It's unclear if or when their symptoms will resolve, or "clear."



BRUCE DAMONTE / OREGON STATE HOSPITAL

Oregon State Hospital's Salem campus.



People play ball in a gymnasium at Oregon State Hospital.



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*—Eric Asimov The New York Times*



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EMILY GREEN/THE LUND REPORT

Governor Kate Brown addresses the Oregon Recovers crowd in February 2018, a few weeks before declaring addiction a public health crisis. She's throwing a shoe into a pile of shoes outside the Capitol — each shoe represents a life lost to addiction.

“There are plenty of folks who do not become psychotic until they graduate to methamphetamine use ... And sometimes they clear, and sometimes they don't,” Walker said. “You're typically not going to know just how clear somebody's going to get unless they are sober for a solid two years — which is not an easy thing to accomplish.”

A couple of years ago, an intern at the Oregon Health Authority researched drug use among the patients sent to Oregon State Hospital because they were mentally unfit for prosecution. From the start of 2017 to the end of 2018, the intern found that 96% had a history of substance abuse, with nearly 70% having used meth.

Walker doesn't think those percentages have changed. What has changed is the number of these patients admitted to the hospital. Fifteen years ago, people being treated for court competency comprised about 15% of the daily population. Today they comprise about 60%, according to Walker.

But while their stays at the hospital tend to be shorter, their share of admissions is even greater. Last year they accounted for 94% of all patients admitted to Oregon State Hospital, according to hospital spokesperson Amber Shoebridge.

## Hospitals trapped in 'really bad cycle'

The surge of patients facing criminal charges means there are not enough beds in the state facility for patients who aren't.

In December 2019, Oregon State Hospital management let hospitals know it would no longer accept civilly committed patients. These are people who are found to be a danger to themselves or others due to acute mental illness.

This forced other hospitals to board patients they would typically transfer to the state for long-term care. And the state's largest hospital system has become backed up with psychiatric patients it has nowhere to send, according to Robin Henderson, Providence Oregon's chief of behavioral health.

“We recently had an individual with us for 694 days,” Henderson said, adding that hospitals can't offer the long-term therapies these patients need. “We don't have an outside area for somebody to be able to go to — so this individual's feet didn't touch grass.”

Patients occupying beds long-term means the hospital must turn other people away.

“It's a simple math problem,” Henderson said. “It really just kind of backs up the whole system.”

For Henderson, meth's role in crowding at the Oregon State Hospital — and the “unintended consequences” for hospitals — is clear. “It's a really bad cycle we're in right now,” she said.

The problem has gotten so bad that hospitals and the Unity Center for Behavioral Health have begun going to court to force the state to take these patients off their hands.

Boarding psychiatric patients is adding to the strain on hospitals' finances — which in turn affects their ability to fill staffing gaps. At the Unity Center in Portland, boarding civilly committed patients is hampering its ability to serve its purpose: to serve as a space for people suffering acute mental health crises.

Meanwhile, hospitals are also overtaxed with the influx of shorter-term emergency room visits related to meth. There were nearly 7,500 such visits to Portland area emergency departments last year, eclipsing the number of alcohol-related visits. At their worst, these meth-involved visits can include patients acting violently and erratically, resulting in injuries to the patient and staff.

## Untreated addiction feeds a revolving door

Despite widespread substance use among patients facing criminal charges at Oregon State Hospital, addiction treatment is typically not an option.

Patients' condition must be somewhat stabilized before they can fully engage in substance use treatment. But to keep patients in the hospital longer than it takes to restore their competency to stand trial would infringe on their civil rights, said Julia Howe, Oregon State Hospital's chief of psychology.

In March 2020, an Oregon State Hospital work group began to develop recommendations for improving substance use treatment for patients. But, a spokesperson said, the pandemic put that work on pause.

In June, an outside expert recommended the expansion of substance use disorder treatment at the hospital, suggesting criminally involved patients would be less likely to reoffend.

The lack of treatment feeds a revolving door in which patients are restored to face trial, get released, go back to meth and homelessness, and then end up at the state hospital again, only this time more acutely psychotic and challenging to treat, according to state hospital staff.

Workers at other hospitals around the state see the same thing — people returning again and again due to meth use. And it takes an emotional toll.

“Every time you see the person again, they're worse than they were the last time you saw them. And they're less the person that they were,” Henderson said. “It's very sad, and it's a very helpless feeling. And I think helplessness is probably the hardest thing that emergency department staff deal with.”

This article was originally published by *The Lund Report*, an independent nonprofit health news organization based in Oregon and online at [thelundreport.org](http://thelundreport.org). The Lund Report is tracking the implementation of Measure 110 as part of a reporting fellowship sponsored by the Association of Health Care Journalists and The Commonwealth Fund.



• SOUTHERN OREGON CERTIFIED ORGANIC RETAILER •



# Rejoining A Landscape: Southern Oregon Coalition Moves Forward With I-5 Wildlife Crossings

By Juliet Grable

The Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition is attempting to create new structures and enhance existing ones so that animals can safely cross I-5 in the Siskiyou Summit region. The interstate bisects the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which was designated for its diversity of wildlife, insects, and plant communities, representing a profound barrier to the many animals attempting to get from one part of their habitat to another.

One morning in late March, Charlie Schelz, an ecologist with the Bureau of Land Management, hiked across a steel railroad bridge that spans Interstate 5 near Siskiyou Summit, four-and-a-half miles from the Oregon-California border. Gravel crunched under his feet as a ceaseless river of cars and trucks roared below. At the end of the bridge, Schelz set down his backpack and unlocked the cable that secured a trail camera to a tree.

“Let’s see what we’ve got,” said Schelz, popping out the memory card. It contained 51 video clips. He clicked through them.

“There’s a deer...another deer, a train,” he said, scrolling. “There’s a guy walking his dog—I see him every day. There’s one, two, three, four deer, heading east.”

Schelz has set up nearly a dozen such cameras along wildlife trails near drainage culverts and vehicle bridges that pass over and under I-5. By monitoring these sites, which span from Neil Creek just outside of Ashland to the California border, he hopes to better understand which animals are using existing corridors to safely traverse the busy highway.

Schelz is part of the Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition. They are a group of scientists, agency representatives, and hunting, fishing, and wildlife advocates seeking to create new structures and enhance existing ones so that animals can safely cross I-5 in the Siskiyou Summit region. This section of highway includes a dangerous, steep downgrade as it cuts through mountainous terrain. The interstate bisects the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which was designated for its diversity

of wildlife, insects, and plant communities, representing a profound barrier to the many animals—from bears, deer, and cougars to fish, frogs and foxes—attempting to get from one part of their habitat to another.



Deer captured on a trail cam within a quarter mile of I-5.

BELOW: An existing underpass under I-5 near the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.



‘We’re dealing with increasing drought, wildfires, and reduced snowpack; all of that translates into changes in habitats. Animals need to be able to move around the landscape, and climate change just increases those demands.’



JULIET GRABLE / JPR

BLM ecologist Charlie Schelz walks across a railroad bridge that passes over I-5 near Siskiyou Summit. Wildlife use the bridge to cross the highway.

“It’s not just your run-of-the-mill wildlife barrier,” says Jack Williams, emeritus scientist for Trout Unlimited and one of the founding members of the coalition. “It’s noisy; there’s a lot of vibration, and it sees tens of thousands of vehicles daily. Some animals do cross; some get hit; but a lot of them just turn away.”

Amy Amrhein, who served as field representative for US Senator Jeff Merkley for 12 years, offered to lead the coalition and help look for funding opportunities.

“It’s always been in the back of my mind that we need to do something about this,” says Amrhein, who also serves as the coalition’s volunteer coordinator. “When I saw President Biden getting serious about an infrastructure bill, I saw an opportunity with money coming into Oregon to get some planning done.”

The coalition started with a handful of local conservation leaders, including Dave Willis, who advocated for the creation of the monument, which was designated in 2000. It has since swelled to 18 members. Though the Oregon Department of Transportation is ultimately responsible for implementing projects on the I-5 corridor, the coalition is working with the agency to develop “shovel-ready” projects. Earlier this year, they won a \$50,000 grant from the Oregon Water Enhancement Board to help fund a feasibility study to investigate possible sites. In March, they hired Samara Group, a Portland-based environmental consulting firm, and River Design Group, a consulting firm that specializes in designing restoration projects, to lead the study.

### Analyzing the animal-human impact

On that day in March, Schelz visited a small culvert near the Pacific Crest Trail, a bridge underpass at the Mt. Ashland highway exit, and a site near the California border called Bear Gulch, where a man-sized culvert tunnels through the hillside far below the thrumming highway. Schelz’s cameras have spotted a wide variety of animals there, including a bobcat and Pacific fisher.

“It’s a really good spot,” says Schelz. “You’re far from the noise, and it’s a nice big tunnel.”



JULIET GRABLE / JPR

BLM ecologist Charlie Schelz stands in a large culvert that passes under I-5 at Bear Gulch near the California border.

The trail cameras have spied on bears, cougars, bobcats, raccoons, skunks, a weasel, and lots of deer and foxes. They will remain in place for at least a full year, so the group can learn what animals are using different sites through the seasons.

While it’s always exciting to discover what the cameras have captured, someone has to sift through the hundreds of videos and thousands of still images. Dr. Karen Mager, a professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Sustainability at Southern Oregon University, recruited two undergraduate students, Alex Zenor and Maya Smith, to help with the monumental task. As part of their senior capstone projects, Zenor and Smith analyzed the data from Schelz’s cameras, along with some they and Dr. Mager installed.

They discovered that while some sites, including Bear Gulch, are being used by an impressive variety of species, others see more traffic overall.

“We had some sites that were used almost exclusively by deer, but they were used at really high rates,” says Mager. “And we know from vehicle collision data that deer are the most common animal being hit by cars, causing the most damage to animals and people.”

According to data from ODOT, between 2016 and 2020, 161 deer were hit by vehicles in the 15-mile stretch between Ashland

and the California border. And those are just the incidents that were reported. These collisions aren't just dangerous, they're expensive. ODOT claims that every time a vehicle collides with a deer, the combination of emergency response, towing, repairs and medical expenses costs \$6,617. When the collision involves an elk, the average cost spikes to \$17,483.

Planned wildlife crossings work. A series of projects on a stretch of Highway 97 just south of Bend have greatly improved life for mule deer attempting to cross the busy thoroughfare. The improvements, which include a new undercrossing built exclusively for wildlife, have reduced wildlife-vehicle collisions by 86 percent since they were completed in 2012. Nearly 30 different species have been documented using the crossings.

Zenor and Smith presented their findings to faculty and students at the end of the spring semester; they've also shared their data with the Samara Group. Other students have expressed interest in carrying on their work.

"It's wonderful to be mentoring undergraduate students who are really taking the lead on doing this work that is so helpful for the region," says Mager.

## Honing in on strategies

In June, the Coalition gathered at the Sampson Creek Preserve near Ashland to begin sketching out design strategies for eight wildlife crossing sites along I-5. Leslie Bliss-Ketchum, director at Samara Group, and Melanie Klym, senior engineer at River Design Group, guided the effort. The goal was to come up with up to three alternatives for each site.

The coalition is not advocating for a single structure, but rather a set of projects which collectively will improve "habitat permeability" across I-5. Options range from simple fixes like planting vegetation on either side of an existing culvert to the construction of an entirely new bridge. At a site like the Mt. Ashland exit underpass, which is heavily used by deer, the group likely won't recommend altering the physical structure, says Bliss-Ketchum. "It's more about adding fencing to funnel wildlife through it and making some habitat changes to help support a more diverse groups of animals."

Some animals are pickier than others. Birds avoid noisy roadsides. Salamanders may be confused by the dark environment inside a culvert. Deer don't like artificial light. Raccoons and foxes readily enter culverts, but other small mammals may not, unless they have a dry ledge or places to hide from predators. The distance between crossings on the same stretch of highway also matters, as large animals like deer and cougars can travel longer distances to access crossings than the "little guys," says Bliss-Ketchum.

"When thinking about all the different animals that may be blocked by a large road like I-5, having frequent opportunities really helps support a diversity of species," she says.

While Bliss-Ketchum addresses the ecological issues, Klym is helping the group understand the logistical challenges of the corridor's highly erodible geology and steep terrain.

"We like to say that Leslie helps with the 'what' and the 'why,' and I help figure out the 'how,'" says Klym. This includes considering a project's potential cost, but also figuring out where to stage materials, minimizing disruptions to traffic, and working with tribes to protect cultural resources.

"We're dealing with increasing drought, wildfires, and reduced snowpack; all of that translates into changes in habitats. Animals need to be able to move around the landscape, and climate change just increases those demands."

In some cases, the group may recommend enlarging an existing culvert or replacing a culvert with a bridge, especially if they can piggyback improvements for wildlife onto work ODOT is likely to undertake anyway. For example, an ODOT representative recently showed the group two culverts near the California border that have become clogged with silt and debris.

ODOT will have to address this issue, says Bliss-Ketchum. "How can we then double our benefit and make them better for wildlife at the same time?"

When the coalition meets again in August, they will go through the alternatives and select the best one for each site. This fall, they will summarize their plan for the entire corridor in a conceptual design report. Then, engineering and design work can begin on the projects ODOT decides to tackle.

Meanwhile, ODOT has applied for a \$500,000 grant through the America the Beautiful Challenge, a new public-private grant program hosted by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation created specifically for conservation and restoration projects. ODOT wants to replace a culvert which currently funnels Neil Creek under I-5 just five miles north of Ashland. The turbulent, swift-moving water inside the culvert makes it hard for native fish like Coho salmon and steelhead to access the clean, cold water above it. Replacing the structure with a bridge, which would allow the stream to flow more naturally, would help fish navigate it; the streamside would also give terrestrial animals a safe way to pass under the bridge.

With climate change, the impetus for these projects is only becoming more urgent, says Williams.

"We're dealing with increasing drought, wildfires, and reduced snowpack; all of that translates into changes in habitats," says Williams. "Animals need to be able to move around the landscape, and climate change just increases those demands."

Fortunately, it's a good time for wildlife crossings in Oregon. In addition to the America the Beautiful Challenge, Biden's Infrastructure and Jobs Act has allocated \$350 million for a Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program, and this March the Oregon Legislature passed a bill allocating \$7 million for wildlife corridor projects, which ODOT will administer.

The projects in Southern Oregon are likely to attract funding, says Williams, adding that many of the people who drive this stretch of I-5 recognize the need for safe wildlife passage.

"One of the amazing things about wildlife crossing work is that it seems to be supported by almost everyone," says Williams. "In this day and age where politics are so divisive, it's refreshing to work on an issue that has such broad support."

---

Juliet Grable is a writer based in Southern Oregon and a regular contributor to JPR News. She writes about wild places and wild creatures, rural communities, and the built environment.

Anxiety and depression among children across the country increased significantly during the pandemic, and even more so among children in Oregon

## Children's Wellness Report Reveals 'Mental Health Pandemic'

**T**he number of children reported with anxiety and depression increased between 2016 and 2020 by 26% nationally, with 1.5 million more children with anxiety and depression in 2020 than 2016. In Oregon, the increase is even higher.

Anxiety and depression among children across the country increased significantly during the pandemic, and even more so among children in Oregon, according to a recent study from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The foundation is a national charitable organization that releases new information about child welfare through an annual report called Kids Count Data Book. Its newest edition, outlines and ranks children's wellness across 16 factors by state.

The report uses data from the National Survey of Children's Health, a survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

According to the report, the number of children reported to have anxiety and depression increased between 2016 and 2020 by 26% nationally, with 1.5 million more children with anxiety and depression in 2020 than 2016.

In Oregon, the increase is even higher. In 2016, an estimated 11.5% of children had anxiety or depression. This increased by 40% in 2020 to 16.1%.

The U.S. Office of the Surgeon General is calling it a "mental health pandemic."

The foundation's report measures children's wellness in four broad categories: economic well-being, health, education, and family and community.

In overall rankings, Oregon is ranked 26th best in children's wellness, and the neighboring states of Washington and Idaho, ranked 15th and 18th.

Oregon is ranked 30th in economic well-being, 41st in education, 12th in health, and 18th in family and community.

### County-specific data pinpoints areas in need of support

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted children's mental health, according to Jenifer Wagley, executive director of Our Children Oregon, a children's advocacy organization.

Our Children Oregon released county-specific data on August 8 showing a more detailed picture of Oregon children's well-being.

In addition to the four categories covered by the Kids Count report, Our Children Oregon's data introduces a fifth area of data regarding the impacts of climate change on children's wellbeing.

It looks at climate-related data such as wildfire risk, drought intensity and days of extreme heat.

Its data also digs into factors regarding the juvenile justice system, children in foster care and child-care access.



OCTAVIO LOPEZ GALINDO FROM PIXABAY

Our Children Oregon's data shows where children are not getting needed support around the state, especially in rural areas such as Wheeler County. There, over a quarter of children lived in poverty and fewer than half of high schoolers graduated on time in 2019-2020.

### Disparities in mental health

The reports from both Our Children Oregon and the Casey Foundation show disparities among children in marginalized groups.

Statewide data shows Black, Latino, Native American and Pacific Islander children consistently fall under state averages for wellness metrics, and they are disproportionately represented in data around victims of abuse, experiencing foster care, and referrals to the juvenile justice system.

Oregon sixth-graders with gender diverse or multiple gender identities also reported lower levels of feeling safe or that they belonged in school.

Nationally, people ages 3 to 17 who identify as American Indian or Native Alaskan, white, or of two or more races were above the national average for experiencing anxiety and depression.

The percentage of people ages 13 to 24 attempting suicide also differed across ethnicity and sexual orientation nationally.

On average, 9% of high schoolers attempted suicide in 2019, but 25% of all American Indian and Native Alaskan teens attempted suicide. The percentage was also greater for gay, lesbian and bisexual teens at 23% versus 6% of all heterosexual students.

### Data Limitations

The pandemic disrupted much of the data collection for these studies.

On a state level, five factors are missing data because that data would have come from the Student Health Survey, which doesn't have results from before 2020.

The Casey Foundation and Our Children Oregon used different metrics to assess the state of children's mental health. The Casey Foundation measured wellness based on children's anxiety and depression diagnoses, and Our Children Oregon measured it based on children's access to mental healthcare.

While this data is helpful, it does not capture the full scope of mental health challenges young people face, Wagley said.

Even so, Wagley said, the data can inform future policies for Oregon's children, specifically around literacy rates, mental health care and economic well-being.

To address mental health, the Casey Foundation recommends improvements in three areas: prioritizing children's basic needs; providing increased access to mental health care where and when it's needed; and bolstering child mental health care with their cultural identities and experiences in mind.

To reduce child poverty, Wagley hopes to maintain the child tax credit that the American Rescue Plan expanded in 2021.

Our Children Oregon's data also provides information on who needs the most support in increasing reading proficiency and literacy rates across location, race and ethnicity.

Wagley said this data helps to target resources to people who need it the most.

"When we act together, all children can thrive, but we have to address the systemic racial and geographic disparities as we do so to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential and live their best life."

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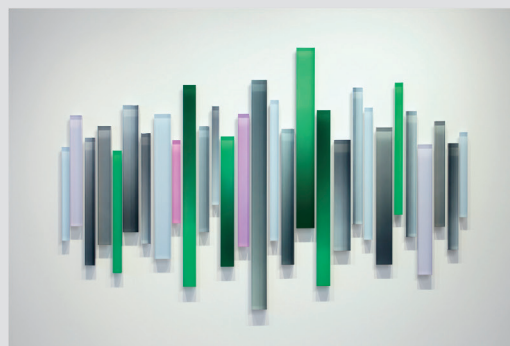
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Above: (Top) Mel Prest, "BURST", 2020, Acrylic and fluorescent acrylic on wood panel, 60x60x2 inches (Bottom) Freddy Chandra, "Haze", 2016, Airbrushed acrylic pigments, UV-resistant resin and urethane varnish on cast acrylic

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ERIK NEUMANN

So, what do you do with that back-of-your-mind dread that has drained the enjoyment out of hot summer days?

# Don't Let The Apocalypse Get You Down

“Los Angeles weather is the weather of catastrophe, of apocalypse, and, just as the reliably long and bitter winters of New England determine the way life is lived there, so the violence and the unpredictability of the Santa Ana affect the entire quality of life in Los Angeles, accentuate its impermanence, its unreliability. The wind shows us how close to the edge we are.”

Joan Didion wrote that in her 1967 essay “Los Angeles Notebook” about the hot Santa Ana winds that cascade through Southern California each fall. But read out of context, the sentiment could just as easily be about Ashland or Redding or Yreka, or any other number of towns along the Oregon-California border. “For a few days now we will see smoke back in the canyons, and hear sirens in the night. I have neither heard nor read that a Santa Ana is due, but I know it, and almost everyone I have seen today knows it too,” she wrote.

The list of names grows each year: Carr, Slater, Almeda, McKinney. Late summer – August into September – is the time of year when you hear people talking about the weather with a fear-of-God kind of reverence, a sign of the ominous collective memory of the 2020 wildfires for many across the region. If you were here, you would probably feel it too.

So, what do you do with that back-of-your-mind dread that has drained the enjoyment out of hot summer days? A decent number of journalists, academics and activists today are arguing that the solution, especially for those of us weighing whether to have kids, is to do our best to beat back that dread; to acknowledge that while the world might be growing slightly less vibrant, we must fight to protect what can still be saved instead of getting sucked into the nihilism of climate gloom, which usually tracks nicely with every new report about climate change, numbing headline or, yes, tragic wildfire. According to this argument, refocusing on what is beautiful in the world is our best chance to keep it. It's not an easy optimism to foster if you pay attention. Reading the news certainly doesn't help.

Still, there are undeniable wins worth paying attention to. In August, Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act, a massive health and climate bill. It's the biggest piece of climate legislation passed in U.S. history. Its provisions include ramping up production of renewable energy sources and electric vehicles. It puts the Biden administration on track to meet their climate goal of cutting U.S. emissions nearly in half by 2030. Closer to home, in late 2021 the project to build the Jordan Cove liquified natural gas pipeline, that would have snaked across Southern Oregon to an export terminal in Coos Bay, was abandoned by its developers in the face of a raft of longstanding opposition from local activists to federal lawmakers. These fights to prevent the worst climate impacts shouldn't be so difficult, and they waste



Joan Didion, 1934–2021

precious time. To slightly alter an old saw: the best time to fix climate change was 50 years ago. The second best is today.

Joan Didion died earlier this year. She was one of the best, sharpest voices of her generation but she was not much of an optimist. Her critiques of the end of the 1960s eviscerated whatever mythology remained of the flower power generation. Do we need another Joan Didion today? I think so. I hope a clear-eyed journalism emerges for climate. Today, the most delusional perspective that I see is not from a selective focus on optimism but from those who still say climate change is not a problem at all. People who want to debate away the issue, or hope it gets carried away with the wind. The wind that, on hot September days, shows us how close to the edge we really are.

Simply focusing on the positive with a kind of forced optimism is not necessarily the journalism we need, but neither is an attitude that ignores the magnitude of what climate change means for all of us. We need a Joan Didion – or an army of them—to witness and report unflinchingly on the good, the bad, and the ugly so that we have a realistic understanding of what's happening and so we can act on it accordingly.



JPR's Erik Neumann is JPR's interim news director.



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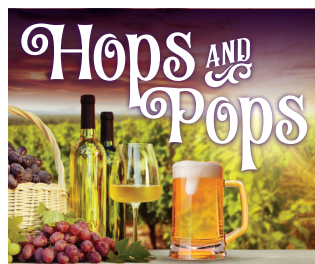
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TOM BANSE

## HISTORY

Working in the hot July sun, the researchers needed only to scrape down a few inches before they began to uncover remnants of domestic life.

# Unearthing The Story Of Japanese Immigrants At Site Of Former Oregon Lumber Company Town

The classic black-and-white photos from early decades of the American West often fail to capture the diversity of the people who came here. Chinese migrants helped build the railroads and were big in gold mining. Basque people from Spain became known for sheep herding. The first Filipino cannery workers arrived around the turn of the last century. Now, Oregon archaeologists are on the surprising trail of Japanese families who lived in a now-vanished lumber company town.

The project promises to paint a fuller picture of who built the Pacific Northwest, which is a favorite research target of archaeologist Chelsea Rose, the director of the Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology. In her team's latest foray into Eastern Oregon, they are literally digging into timber history.

"The story of logging is a white man's narrative," Rose said. "You not only don't see Japanese, Chinese, all the other folks that were working on these kinds of operations, but you also don't see families. You don't see the women and children."

Which brings us to the ruins of the former Baker White Pine Mill and the company town that once surrounded it in rural Grant County, Oregon, roughly a century ago—1912 to 1930, to be more precise.

A forest of spindly pine trees has regrown on the property northeast of Prairie City. But sharp eyes and metal detectors helped Rose and a team of professional archaeologists and volunteers identify spots to dig where workers' homes might have been.

The scene had all the hallmarks you might associate with archaeology. There were grid markers and shallow, square pits in the ground with people wielding trowels, brushes, buckets and sifting trays.

Working in the hot July sun, the researchers needed only to scrape down a few inches before they began to uncover remnants of domestic life. The bounty included a delicate ring with inlaid gemstone and lots of shards of Western-style export Japanese porcelain, some with distinctive dragon and cloud motifs.

"We are on an industrial site and we're finding doll arms, marbles and tea sets. That really brings home this idea that families were part of these early industries in these remote areas," Rose said during a lunch break. "We need to broaden our understanding of what that looks like."

The sawmill ruin and vanished company town are an unmarked U.S. Forest Service site now. Blue Mountain Ranger District archaeologist Katee Withee said the Forest Service might eventually install interpretive signs or add the site to an auto tour. When Withee was growing up in Eastern Oregon, she said she had no idea Japanese workers a century ago built railroad spurs, cooked in logging camps and hired on with area mills.



Southern Oregon University's Keoni Diacamias at work on July 21 excavating the site of a home in the vanished company town that once surrounded the Baker White Pine Mill.

"It makes sense once you look at the Census records, right," Withee said. "But that definitely wasn't something we were highlighting in eighth grade history."

Records from the 1910, 1920 and 1930 censuses included the names and occupations of dozens of immigrants and Japanese American families who lived in the township around the Baker White Pine Mill. They weren't farmers, that being a common assumption—and often a correct presumption—of what this group did a century ago.

The info coming out of the archaeological dig was sufficiently exciting and novel to entice Japanese American Museum of Oregon interim deputy director Mark Takiguchi and the museum's research coordinator James Rodgers to drive all the way from Portland to observe.

"This is so cooollll!" Takiguchi burst out after walking around the large site.

"I'm really interested personally in finding out where they went," Takiguchi said. "What was the next chapter after this chapter closed? Where in Oregon or Idaho did they travel? What were the stories? I think we have some really exciting leads of living people we can pursue."

Those would be descendants probably three generations removed from the names on the old census rolls.

"We're going to bring back some really exciting stories to our community," Takiguchi vowed.

The genealogical sleuthing will happen simultaneously with the examination of thousands of artifacts collected from the lumber mill dig. The physical items were hauled back to the lab at

Continued on page 26



*Southern Oregon*

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Photo: Richard Jacquot

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ROMAN BATTAGLIA

“The kind of abuses that we’ve seen in the cannabis industry have been very widespread and also very intense”

## Legal Aid Groups In Oregon Get State Funds To Recover Stolen Wages For Cannabis Farm Workers

**O**regon state lawmakers allocated \$6 million to community groups this year to help with what they’ve called a humanitarian crisis for workers in the state’s cannabis industry.

In the basement of a Medford church, a group of migrant farm workers gather, all of them coming from different parts of Mexico in search of better paying jobs.

For the last few years, Jesus found work seasonally on marijuana farms. (He chose not to share his last name because of his immigration status).

But Jesus says he and many other workers stopped working at these farms after losing out on the wages they were promised last year.

“There was just a little bit of marijuana left and they were about to bring out the payment but then the bosses, the heads arrived,” he says. “They had a little meeting and all the owner’s stuff disappeared that day. I saw after that they didn’t give us nothing, nothing.”

Jesus says he lost \$18,000 last year, all wages never paid by the people who hired him.

He’s not the only one. Many other migrant workers lost out on thousands of dollars in wages last year alone.

“The kind of abuses that we’ve seen in the cannabis industry have been very widespread and also very intense,” says Corinna Spencer, director of the Northwest Workers Justice Project.

Workers JPR talked to described 12-hour work days in hot greenhouses, no access to water and exposure to toxic chemicals. Most never saw a single dime for their work.

Cannabis farms are regulated under Oregon OSHA rules regarding agriculture, but, according to law enforcement officials in Southern Oregon, the worst working conditions often take place at illegal operations.

Some workers left before the season was over, after finding out they weren’t going to get paid.

Jesus says many of the employees he worked with quickly found work harvesting other crops like grapes, or doing yard maintenance to make up for the lost wages they counted on to take care of their families.

Kathy Keese is one of the co-founders of Unete, a farm worker advocacy group in Southern Oregon.

“We usually would have like 70 wage claims a year,” says Keese. “Last year, just in the last quarter of 2021, there were like 200 wage claims. All of them were from the cannabis industry.”

Wage claims are complaints filed with Oregon’s Bureau of Labor and Industries. The agency is charged with investigating claims, settling disputes, and if it comes to it, suing or filing criminal charges against employers. Unete is a major provid-



Empty chemical containers lay strewn about at a raided marijuana grow in Medford, August 10th, 2022.

COURTESY OF JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



A campsite at an illegal marijuana grow, raided by Jackson County Sheriff's on August 10th, 2022.

COURTESY OF JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

er of support for farm workers facing lost or stolen wages in Southern Oregon.

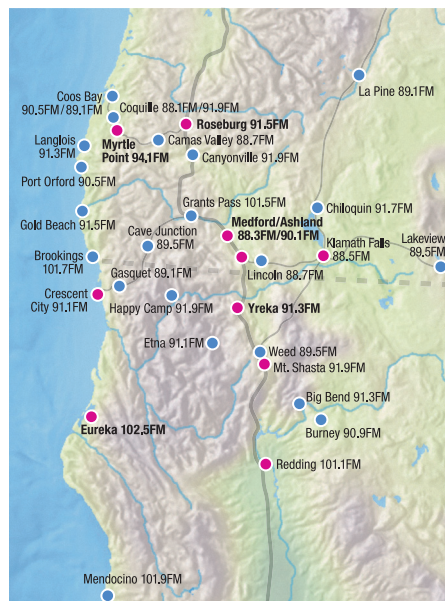
Unete’s other co-founder, Dagoberto Morales, says they were the ones that came up with the idea for this \$6 million grant, working with state lawmakers to get it approved earlier this year.

“They asked us because we are the only organization that has direct connections with the workers,” he says. “And we’re always struggling to get what they need.”

Keese says after law enforcement busts an illegal cannabis operation, it’s organizations like Unete that come to help provide emergency housing, clothing and other services for farm workers.

Continued on page 42

# Classics & News Service



● **FM Transmitters** provide extended regional service. (KSOR, 90.1 FM is JPR's strongest transmitter and provides coverage throughout the Rogue Valley.)

● **FM Translators** provide low-powered local service.

## Monday through Friday

5:00am Morning Edition  
7:00am First Concert  
12:00pm Siskiyou Music Hall  
4:00pm All Things Considered  
6:30pm The Daily  
7:00pm Exploring Music  
8:00pm State Farm Music Hall

## Saturday

5:00am Weekend Edition  
8:00am First Concert  
10:00am WFMT Opera Series  
2:00pm Played in Oregon  
3:00pm The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

4:00pm All Things Considered  
5:00pm New York Philharmonic  
7:00pm State Farm Music Hall

## Sunday

5:00am Weekend Edition  
9:00am Millennium of Music  
10:00am Sunday Baroque  
12:00pm American Landscapes  
1:00pm Fiesta!  
2:00pm Performance Today Weekend  
4:00pm All Things Considered  
5:00pm Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
7:00pm Gameplay  
8:00pm State Farm Music Hall

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Sept 10 – *I Puritani*  
by Vincenzo Bellini  
Sept 17 – *The Pearl Fishers*  
(In French) by Georges Bizet  
Sept 24 – *Rusalka* by Antonin Dvorák  
October 1 – *The Merry Widow*  
by Franz Léhar  
October 8 – *A Village Teacher*  
(In Mandarin) by Hao Weiya  
October 15 – *Il Corsaro*  
by Giuseppe Verdi  
October 22 – *L'Inganno Felice*  
by Gioachino Rossini  
October 29 – *Aida* by Giuseppe Verdi

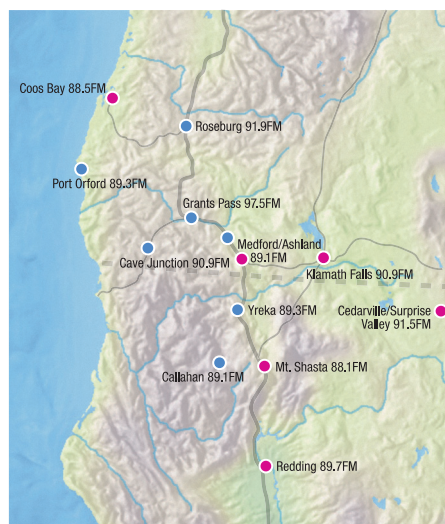
## Programming Updates

Beginning on Sunday, September 4th, JPR's *Classics & News* service adds two new programs to the lineup. At noon, tune in for **American Landscapes**, a weekly potpourri of the best of American music. The program features works by composers such as Aaron Copland, Samuel Barber, George Gershwin, Leonard Bernstein, and many living composers like Michael Torke, Kevin Puts, and Caroline Shaw. There will be music to get reacquainted with, and music that you'll be hearing for the first time, with plenty to add to your list of favorites.

Presented by Michael Campion, a special program host at KCME in Colorado Springs, he has been a writer, reviewer, and teacher in the Colorado Springs area for the past twenty-five years. He has also appeared in numerous theatre productions in his native Chicago and Colorado Springs areas and also works as a freelance audio editor and private piano instructor.

Then, at 1pm stick around for **Fiesta!**, a program devoted to LatinX concert music with compositions from Latin America, Spain and Portugal. Hosted by composer, musician, performer, and professor Elbio Barilari, the program promotes an appreciation for Latin American classical music and creates a meeting place for listeners of diverse backgrounds. It also includes little-known treasures from the Latin-American Baroque, and classical guitar repertoire. The Uruguayan-born composer, Elbio Barilari, is a faculty member of the University of Illinois at Chicago, and is at the helm for this trip through the hidden pleasures of Latino concert music. *Fiesta!* provides a valuable platform for the sound, culture, and history of classical music in Latin America and enriches our listeners by introducing them to a genre that often does receive much exposure.

## Rhythm & News Service



● **FM Transmitters** provide extended regional service.  
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### Monday through Friday

5:00am Morning Edition  
9:00am Open Air  
3:00pm Q  
4:00pm All Things Considered  
6:00pm World Café  
8:00pm Undercurrents  
3:00am World Café

### Saturday

5:00am Weekend Edition  
9:00am Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!  
10:00am Radiolab  
11:00am Snap Judgement  
12:00pm E-Town  
1:00pm Mountain Stage  
3:00pm Folk Alley  
5:00pm All Things Considered  
6:00pm American Rhythm

8:00pm The Retro Cocktail Hour  
9:00pm The Retro Lounge  
10:00pm Late Night Blues  
12:00am Undercurrents

### Sunday

5:00am Weekend Edition  
9:00am TED Radio Hour  
10:00am This American Life  
11:00am The Moth Radio Hour  
12:00pm Jazz Sunday  
2:00pm American Routes  
4:00pm Sound Opinions  
5:00pm All Things Considered  
6:00pm The Folk Show  
9:00pm Woodsongs  
10:00pm The Midnight Special  
12:00pm Mountain Stage  
1:00am Undercurrents

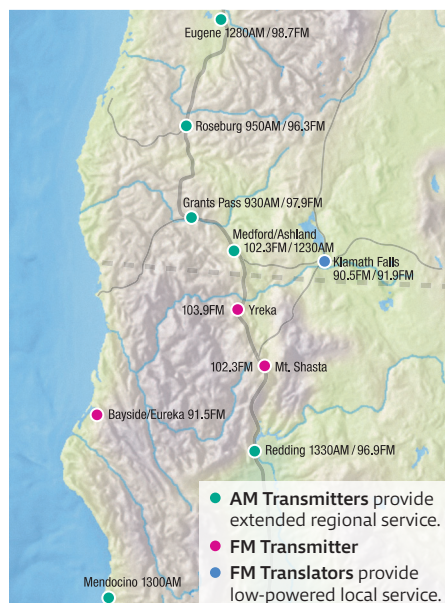
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## News & Information Service



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### Monday through Friday

5:00am BBC World Service  
7:00am 1A  
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10:00am The Takeaway  
11:00am Here & Now  
1:00pm BBC News Hour  
1:30pm The Daily  
2:00pm Think  
3:00pm Fresh Air  
4:00pm PRI's The World  
5:00pm On Point  
6:00pm 1A  
7:00pm Fresh Air (repeat)  
8:00pm The Jefferson Exchange (repeat of 8am broadcast)  
10:00pm BBC World Service

### Saturday

5:00am BBC World Service  
7:00am Inside Europe  
8:00am Day 6

9:00am Freakonomics Radio  
10:00am Planet Money  
11:00am Hidden Brain  
12:00pm Living on Earth  
1:00pm Science Friday  
3:00pm To the Best of Our Knowledge  
5:00pm Politics with Amy Walter  
6:00pm Selected Shorts  
7:00pm BBC World Service

### Sunday

5:00am BBC World Service  
8:00am On The Media  
9:00am Throughline  
10:00am Reveal  
11:00am This American Life  
12:00pm TED Radio Hour  
1:00pm The New Yorker Radio Hour  
2:00pm Fresh Air Weekend  
3:00pm Milk Street Radio  
4:00pm Travel with Rick Steves  
5:00pm To the Best of Our Knowledge  
7:00pm BBC World Service

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 FRANZ SCHUBERT: *Symphony in B minor, "Unfinished"*  
 RICHARD DANIELPOUR: *Clarinet Concerto "From the Mountaintop"*  
 Anthony McGill, clarinet



**Masterworks 2: October 21-23**  
 LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN: *Piano Concerto No. 1*  
 Michael Stephen Brown, piano  
 LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN: *Symphony No. 7*



**Masterworks 3: November 18-20**  
 KEIKO ABE: *Prism Rhapsody for Marimba and Orchestra*  
 Britton-René Collins, marimba  
 WILLIAM DAWSON: *Negro Folk Symphony*



**Masterworks 4: January 20-22**  
 ALEXANDER BORODIN: *Symphony No. 2, "Heroic"*  
 DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH: *Violin Concerto No. 1*  
 Alexander Sitkovetsky, violin



**Masterworks 5: February 24-26**  
 RICHARD STRAUSS: *Burleske*  
 FLORENCE PRICE: *Piano Concerto*  
 Michelle Cann, piano  
 SILVESTRE REVUELTAS: *La noche de los Mayas*



**Masterworks 6: April 21-23**  
 VÍTĚZSLAV NOVÁK: *In the Tatra*  
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## JPR News Focus: History

Continued from page 21

Southern Oregon University in Ashland in late July. So far, Rose said the researchers have been unable to link any artifacts or specific home sites to identifiable families, but that is a key goal.

**NOTE:** After this story was published on [ijpr.org](http://ijpr.org), a listener asked for more detail on why the company town had vanished in the first place.

The reason? The successive blows came from the closure of the Baker White Pine lumber mill circa 1930 and the shutdown of the rail line that served the mill and community a few years later. Rose said she suspects the lumber company or the former residents deconstructed the worker housing and carted off the salvaged wood to reuse somewhere else. That would explain why there are practically no standing remnants of an old ghost town, and why the tools of archaeology are needed to suss out which buildings stood where.

"Without the mill, and with the abandonment of the railroad, there would be little reason or the ability for anyone to stay on in the associated community," added archaeologist Eric Gleason, another member of the research and excavation team.



Tom Banse is a regional correspondent for the Northwest News Network, covering business, environment, public policy, human interest and national news across the Northwest. The Northwest News Network is a collaboration of public radio stations, including JPR, that broadcast in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.



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“From a sociological and psychological standpoint, she is a man. If society will but let her alone, she will fill her niche in the world and leave it better for her bravery.” — Dr. J Allen Gilbert

## Meet Oregonian Dr. Alan Hart, Who Underwent The First Documented Gender-Confirming Surgery In The US

It was 105 years ago that an Oregon doctor underwent what is thought to be the first documented gender-confirming surgery in the United States.

Dr. Alan Hart was born Alberta “Lucille” Hart in 1890. Hart grew up in the Willamette Valley and attended Albany College, now Lewis & Clark College. Hart preferred to present as male and did so as much as possible—often with family support. But at school, Hart was forced to wear dresses and appear as “Lucille.”

In 1917, Hart graduated with a medical degree from the University of Oregon Medical Department in Portland, now Oregon Health & Science University. That same year, Hart persuaded fellow Oregon doctor J. Allen Gilbert to perform what was—at the time—considered an unheard-of transition surgery. Hart underwent a hysterectomy, ensuring Hart could not have menses or become pregnant. That operation, along with a psychological evaluation, was enough for Dr. Gilbert to officially state that Hart should be accepted by society as a man.

Gilbert reported in a medical journal, “A hysterectomy was performed, her hair was cut, a complete male outfit was secured. She made her exit as a female and started as a male with a new hold on life.”



Alan Hart, circa 1922

LEFT: Alan Hart’s draft registration card.

Form 1 1835 808 1/2 No. 27

**REGISTRATION CARD**

1 Name in full Alan L. Hart (Given name) (Family name)

2 Home address 234 Calapooia St. Albany Oregon (No.) (City) (State)

3 Date of birth October 4th 1890 (Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural born citizen

5 Where were you born? Ball Summit Kan USA (Town) (State) (Nation)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Physician

8 By whom employed? Myself Douglas County Gardner Oregon

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 18, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? Yes - wife

10 Married or single (which)? Married Race (specify which) Caucasian

11 What military service have you had? Rank None ; branch ; years ; Nation or State

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? Yes

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Alan L. Hart (Signature or mark)

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Within months of the surgery and transition, Hart legally changed his name and eloped with Portland schoolteacher Inez Stark. At the time, so-called “cross dressing” and same-sex marriage were illegal. Despite the risks, Hart came out openly in his hometown of Albany.

In 1918, Hart told the Albany Daily Democrat, “I had to do it. ... For years, I had been unhappy. With all the inclinations and desires of the boy. ... I have been happier since I made this change than I ever have in my life, and I will continue this way as long as I live. Very few people can understand.”

Many people didn’t understand. Throughout his career, he was outed and harassed, forcing him to move and change practices. His first marriage ended under that strain. Eventually, he married again and changed his career focus, graduating with a

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## JPR News Focus: Culture

Continued from previous page

master's degree in public health from Yale University. He would rise to the top of his field in treating and studying tuberculous. His pioneering work using x-rays for early detection is credited with saving thousands of lives.

When Dr. Alan Hart died in 1962, his will instructed his attorney to destroy all of his personal papers, photographs, and records. Researchers rediscovered his story in the 1970s, but it remains largely unknown.

*A compilation of Alan Hart's college writings, along with an overview of Hart's life, can be found online in the Lewis & Clark College Special Collections.*

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Jule Gilfillan is an Emmy-winning producer for OPB's documentary shows, Oregon Art Beat and Oregon Field Guide.

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Photo Bob Palermini



NOAH CAMUSO

After over a decade of searching, researchers don't know if Franklin's bumble bee will ever be seen again.

## Is Franklin's Bumble Bee Extinct?

Over 70 people scoured Mt. Ashland for a Franklin's bumble bee as part of the annual Bee Blitz. It was the biggest turnout in the history of the survey, which has taken place in July for over a decade.

After over a decade of searching, researchers don't know if Franklin's bumble bee will ever be seen again. Last week, over 70 people searched Mt. Ashland for a specimen as part of the annual Bee Blitz. It was the biggest turnout in the history of the survey, which has taken place in July for over a decade.

Brendan White with the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Service (right) taught a lesson on how to catch and sample a bumble bee at the start of the day. Participants of the Bee Blitz use a non-lethal sampling method. They capture the bee in a butterfly net, place them in a plastic vial, then put them in a cooler to cool them down, which induces a sleep-like state. After that, they can take photos of the sample for identification.

The team of biologists, citizen scientists, volunteers, landowners and students fanned out through the alpine meadows with butterfly nets in hand, searching among the wildflowers for Franklin's bumble bee.

"I hope, really, that we're going to find this bumble bee," said second-year participant Eva Phiemann. "It's kind of sad that it's become extinct. Hopefully not, hopefully we will come find that area where it's still there."

Before Franklin's bumble bee disappeared from the landscape in 2006, it could only be found in five counties between Southwest Oregon and Northern California, which makes it one of the most range-restricted bumblebees in the world. The bee was listed as an endangered species in 2021.

Jeff Everett, the lead biologist for Franklin's bumble bee and the organizer of the event, said that finding just one specimen of the species would be a major milestone for research and conservation.

"If we can locate Franklin's on the landscape, we can not only bring more meaningful conservation tools to bear to protect and recover the species, but we can also learn more about why it was here and take some of those lessons and apply them to other at-risk pollinators," Everett said.

Bumble bees in the west are struggling because of challenges like pesticide use, habitat destruction and disease. The last



NOAH CAMUSO / JPR



NOAH CAMUSO / JPR

A group of biologists, citizen scientists, volunteers, landowners and students have visited Mount Ashland every year for over a decade to search for Franklin's bumble bee. **RIGHT:** Some participants of the annual Bee Blitz bring their children so they can learn about the outdoors. Sheila Colyer, a wildlife biologist with the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Service, has been bringing her four-year-old son Kai Colyer (right) for years. Kai and his friend, three-year-old Phoebe Fukuda (left), spent the day catching bumble bees.



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## Down To Earth

Continued from previous page

person who saw Franklin's bumble bee, entomologist Dr. Robin Thorp, theorized that their population plummeted because of disease, however researchers aren't sure.

According to Everett, Thorp was legendary in the bumble bee community before he passed away in 2019.

"That man knew more about bees, and bumblebees in particular, than I could ever hope to know," Everett said. "What really separated him out was his extremely gentle, but relentlessly enthusiastic nature. He was somebody that people gravitated to, because you were always learning something from what he had to say."

Some scientists estimate that roughly one in three bites of food we eat depends on animal pollinators.

One source of hope for Franklin's bumble bee is that the next generation of bee hunters is starting to take an interest. The youngest members of the Bee Blitz team were three-year-old Phoebe Fukuda and four-year-old Kai Colyer.

"It's really great for our kids to be able to see what we do and to kind of get them interested in the outdoors, at least, if not in conservation in general," said Zia Fukuda, who works with the Bureau of Land Management.

According to biologists, the best ways to help bees are to plant native wildflowers and avoid pesticide use.

No one found Franklin's bumble bee this year, but it usually takes decades of surveying before a species is officially declared extinct.

After 16 years without a sighting, it may seem unlikely that the bee still exists at all. But lead biologist Jeff Everett says most of the prime habitat for Franklin's bumble bee has not been surveyed yet.

"We've got a long ways to go," Everett said.



Noah Camuso is a broadcast journalist and podcast producer who was born and raised in Salem, Oregon. He came to JPR through the Charles Snowden Program of Excellence after graduating with a BS in journalism from the University of Oregon. In his spare time, Noah enjoys backpacking, scuba diving and writing music.



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GEOFF RIDDEN

It is a feature of the OSF season that no play, however good, can have its run extended, and no play, however bad, can close early.

## “Thy sighs... Without a sudden calm, will upset Thy tempest-tossed body” *Romeo & Juliet*

**M**y wife and I returned to the Allen Elizabethan Theatre in June of this year, having last been there in August 2019 to see a performance of *All's Well that Ends Well*. The cast for that production included Kevin Kenerly and Royer Bockus, both of whom took central roles in the plays which opened that theatre in the 2022 season. *The Tempest* and *Revenge Song* will run until October, but, disappointingly, neither play attracted a full house on opening night.

How long does it take to get from Romeo to Caliban? In the case of Kevin Kenerly at OSF the answer is nineteen years—from 2003 to 2022. He is a fine verse speaker and a consistently reliable performer, ably supported in this production by Michael J. Hume as Gonzago (with even more OSF seasons under his belt!), and Tyrone Wilson, another multi-seasoned OSF veteran as Alonso. Overall, this production had a strong cast including William Thomas Hodgson as Ferdinand, who made the most of what is often a nothing part.

I last saw this play in 2017 in London, with Simon Russell Beale as Prospero. That was a somewhat whimsical version with Ariel in part as a hologram. OSF's production was less tricky, although it did use projections for the masque in Act Four, which certainly helped maintain the pace. The director made good use of space and all its levels: Prospero's book was prominent on the upper level, the trapdoor was brought into play, and, at times, the cast was frozen into poses.

The second scene always presents a challenge. After the spectacle of the shipwreck, Prospero's recounting of the story so far can be tedious, and might be regarded as bad writing (along with the fact that Prospero announces that “Our revels now are ended” some 600 lines before the play actually closes), but director Nicholas C. Avila has overcome this potential pitfall and his Miranda (Grace Chang Ng) is attentive in her role of surrogate audience. Ng was previously seen at OSF in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, a play which had a very short run in 2020 before Covid struck. She had a nice comic moment in Act Three of this production when Miranda proved to be more than a match for Ferdinand in the hauling of logs.

Geoffrey Warren Barnes II was a splendidly androgynous and emotional Ariel with magnificent wings, and, all in all, this was a reading of the play which traditionalists will love - not least for its use of Jacobean costumes (which would, of course, have been “modern dress” in Shakespeare's day). The comic pairing of a young Stephano and Trinculo (Jonathan Fisher and Amy Lizardo) was as engaging as any I've seen, and had the audience eating out of their hands, while James Ryen's Caliban demonstrated just how versatile an actor he is.

I also learned something new from this production - something I should have known long ago. I'd always imagined that,

in the final scene, after Antonio had been unmasked as a villain, he says nothing (like his namesake in the final scene of *Twelfth Night*). In this production, however, I noted that Al Espinosa as Antonio joined in the mocking of Caliban *et al*. I can only assume that either this line was cut in other versions that I've seen or that I was not paying full attention to those productions, perhaps having struggled with the masque.

Qui Nguyen's *Vietgone* had a very successful run in the Thomas Theatre in 2016 and its sequel *Poor Yella Rednecks* was scheduled to be staged in the Angus Bowmer Theatre in 2020 and was eagerly anticipated. By the time you read this, you will probably have learned that Qui Nguyen's *Revenge Song* has evoked sharply different reactions from those who have seen it (and even from those who haven't seen it!).

This musical was first staged in Los Angeles in February 2020, and comes to OSF directed by Robert Ross Parker. I have no doubt that this production is designed to appeal to a younger demographic, and it is described in the publicity in these terms:

“Buckle up for a musical story about Julie d'Aubigny – a queer 17th-century rule-breaking, sword fighting, opera-singing transgressor of boundaries. It'll be loud, it'll be rowdy, and it'll be hilarious!”

Julie is played by Reina Guthrie, making her OSF debut, and Royer Bockus has the other principal role. The website for the production also carries warnings:

“*Revenge Song* contains strong profanity,...sexuality and sexual dialogue, alcohol and drug abuse,...violence,...misogyny...”

I have not included all the warnings listed, but I have to confess that this play was not to my taste: it reminded me too much of student “events” designed solely to shock the faculty. I suspect that there will be those who leave at the intermission. My feeling is that there are so many good plays out there which would have attracted a younger audience and which would have been more worthwhile to stage, including *Poor Yella Rednecks*. It is a feature of the OSF season that no play, however good, can have its run extended, and no play, however bad, can close early. Even with the reduced ticket prices currently on offer, it's hard to see this one filling a 1200 seat theatre all season. I hope that I'm wrong....



Geoff Ridden has taught in universities in Africa, Europe and North America. Since moving to Ashland in 2008, he has become a familiar figure on radio, in the theatre, in the lecture hall and on the concert stage. He is artistic director of the Classic Readings Theatre Company and has a particular interest in adaptations of the plays of Shakespeare. Email [geoff.ridden@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.ridden@gmail.com)



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LAUREN DAKE

The legacy of Oregon's next governor could hinge largely on a single issue: How well she handles the state's growing homeless crisis.

## Key Challenge For Oregon's Next Governor: Can She Solve The Homelessness Crisis?

**T**he legacy of Oregon's next governor could hinge largely on a single issue: How well she handles the state's growing homeless crisis.

For years, Oregon has underbuilt housing, underfunded the mental health system and more recently, battled wildfires that have wiped out homes. The pandemic devastated already weak safety nets. Now, the unsheltered crisis has reached every corner of the state.

The three women hoping to be governor — Republican Christine Drahan, unaffiliated candidate Betsy Johnson and Democrat Tina Kotek — have all promised to make a substantial dent in the problem. And voters have signaled repeatedly it is among their gravest concerns.

Drahan has said she would declare a state of emergency on homelessness in the state if she were elected. The move, she said, would quickly free up money for addiction and behavioral health services. But Drahan's campaign glossed over Kotek's call for a statewide emergency declaration two years ago to allow cities and the state to more easily site homeless shelters. That same year, Drahan led her caucus on a walkout that killed myriad legislation, including money to increase shelter capacity.

Johnson has promised to tackle the crisis with compassion and accountability. She vowed to bring together those with different political philosophies. But for a candidate who preaches unity, her tone is often divisive. She calls names and belittles. She quipped to the New York Times that the city of Portland, known as the city of Roses, was more like the "city of Roaches." And she disparaged those who questioned the comment, dismissing them with the popular right-wing cudgel of being overly "woke."

No candidate has more experience on the topic than Kotek, the former longtime Oregon House speaker. She has muscled through legislation to make Oregon the first state in the nation with statewide rent control, and she championed an effort to effectively end single-family zoning in cities. But that legislative history could also hurt her, if voters connect her lengthy influence to an unacceptable status quo.

### **CHRISTINE DRAHAN: Focus on substance abuse and mental illness**

The state of Oregon has a housing crisis. But Drahan said the state's bigger failure is not supporting people with substance abuse and mental health issues.

"My opponents will say a lack of affordable housing is the primary driver, and while our housing costs are certainly a factor, a housing-first response is a failed approach that gloss-



Tents line the entirety of some city blocks in Portland's Old Town on March 23, 2022.

es over the more inconvenient truths about the crisis in our streets," Drahan said in written responses to a series of questions from OPB.

Oregon is short at least 111,000 housing units, mainly ones that would help lower-income families.

"When it comes to homelessness, specifically, there is a lot of research that has come out in the last decade that fundamentally homelessness is about the inability to afford housing," Josh Lehner, an economist with the state of Oregon, told OPB in an earlier interview. "It seems self-explanatory, but I don't know if that can be repeated enough. There are other places in the country that have mental health issues, drug addiction issues and high poverty issues, and at the same time they have lower rates of homelessness ... People can still have mental health issues or drug addiction issues or live in poverty, but still have a roof over their heads because the housing is more affordable in other places."

Drahan said she would work to repeal Measure 110, which voters passed in 2020 to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of drugs. The measure also dedicates marijuana tax dollars to fund addiction recovery services, which Drahan noted has been bungled so far.

Drahan also made the case that the state needs to stop "enabling homelessness." Her Democratic opponent, Kotek, pushed a bill that protects people who are camping from being

# JPR News Focus: Politics & Government

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The three women hoping to be governor: Tina Kotek, Betsy Johnson, and Christine Drazan

financed on public lands if there are no other alternatives. Drazan said the bill “effectively legalized camping” in the state.

“To solve homelessness in the long term we have to solve our addiction crisis as a state,” Drazan said.

## BETSY JOHNSON: Blame feckless politicians

Johnson started serving in the statehouse in 2001 and has served in the Senate since 2005 until 2021, when she stepped down to launch her bid for governor.

Despite holding a position of power for more than two decades, when asked what the specific causes of Oregon’s homelessness crisis was, Johnson blamed politicians.

The reasons for homelessness, she wrote in response to questions from OPB, range from the failure of our mental health system to the lack of affordable housing.

But it’s become a crisis, she said, “because we have elected too many feckless politicians who would rather talk about homelessness than do something about it and who go home at night unconcerned by the number of those who are sleeping on the streets with destroyed lives as the problem continues to erode our communities and their safety.”

Johnson, who was the co-chair of the powerful budget committee, has carved out a reputation for financial savvy and striving for fiscal accountability. She said that is part of why she opposed Project Turnkey, an effort to turn distressed motels and hotels into emergency shelters spearheaded, in part, by her opponent, Kotek.

Johnson called the effort a “short-term idea that is being turned into an ongoing mistake.”

“Buying out motel and hotel rooms all over the state and filling them with homeless people only creates more problems,” Johnson said. “Many of the nonprofits who are being left in charge will likely be unable to sustain services once the federal and state funds stop. It is an unsustainable model.”

Johnson instead threw her support behind an effort to transform the former unused Multnomah County Wapato jail into a high-barrier homeless shelter. The shelter has strict rules for those who stay there, including a sobriety requirement. Now

called Bybee Lakes Hope Center, Johnson secured a \$2 million investment from the state to help the project become a reality. The project has so far relied largely on private donations. When OPB asked Johnson if she financially scrutinized Bybee Lakes, she said she believes in Alan Evans, the man running the program.

“I have confidence in Bybee Lakes because I know Alan Evans has deep experience over two decades helping homeless people get their feet under them again. I’ve seen it in action,” Johnson wrote. “The Hope Center is working very hard to help people, and it’s working.”

## TINA KOTEK: The longest track record on housing, good or bad?

In a primary debate with her Democratic opponent Tobias Read in April, Kotek touted her long record of pushing for money to alleviate Oregon’s housing crisis.

Read simply replied with: “How’s it going?”

Read’s point is one Kotek’s foes have been eager to take up in the general election race, as they attempt to tie her to an unacceptable status quo.

Kotek has a strong housing pitch: More than any other lawmaker, she’s focused on housing issues. She’s secured millions for affordable housing projects and permanent supportive housing. She’s pushed to increase shelter capacity and invest \$500 million in rental assistance programs. She was the loudest champion of including \$75 million to turn distressed motels into homeless shelters.

Yet, she’s also served as one of the most powerful politicians in the state for years and despite the investment and the influence, the state’s homelessness crisis continues to mount.

Kotek has to convince voters that given the chance to be governor, that would change.

The Democrat said if elected she would make it a goal to end unsheltered homelessness for veterans, families with children, unaccompanied young adults and people 65 years and older by 2025.

Within her first 30 days, Kotek said she would form an emergency management team to work directly with community leaders and local governors to address the crisis. She said she would push state agencies to ensure they are efficiently using the state dollars they have been given, and she cited the Oregon Health Authority’s use of \$500 million to expand the state’s behavioral health system.

“I will not allow any more excuses of why local providers and governments can’t work better together,” Kotek said.

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Lauren Dake is a political reporter and producer for Oregon Public Broadcasting.

# Abortion Pills Will Soon Be Available On California Campuses

**A**s California's efforts to enshrine abortion access continue, the University of California and California State University are working to provide medication abortions on all campuses by Jan. 1.

So far, none of the Cal State campuses offer medication abortions, and access within the UC system varies from campus to campus. Both university systems, however, say they are on track to implement a law passed in 2019 requiring their student health centers to provide access to the pills.

As many as 6,228 students could seek medication abortions on UC and Cal State campuses each year, once they are available, according to Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health, a research program at the University of California San Francisco.

Making medication abortions available on college campuses would likely free up appointments at clinics throughout the state that could then be sought by people living in areas of California where abortion access is limited or in other states where it is now illegal, multiple reproductive health experts and advocates told CalMatters.

"Because there is going to be this increase in people coming to California, all of the clinics are going to have, you know, additional demand and kind of struggle with capacity," said Cathren Cohen, a reproductive rights expert at the UCLA Center on Reproductive Health, Law and Policy. "While it's not necessarily going to help all the people coming from out of state, it's just generally going to increase the number of abortion providers."

State Sen. Connie Leyva, who authored Senate Bill 24, said its significance could not have been anticipated years ago, before the recent Supreme Court ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade and ended the constitutional right to an abortion in the U.S.

"Little did we know how important this bill would be and this law would be based on the Supreme Court's decision," said Leyva, a Chino Democrat. "I think it's even more important than it was when we did it."

## Securing abortion access on university campuses

Each month, between 322 and 519 students at Cal State and UC seek medication abortions, according to a 2018 report published by UCSF's Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health.

As many as two-thirds of those students have to travel at least 30 minutes on public transportation to reach the closest

University of California and Cal State campuses will all start providing medication abortion beginning Jan. 1 under a new state law. In the aftermath of the Supreme Court's decision overturning Roe v. Wade, opening up abortion appointments on university campuses could ease pressure on local clinics, which will likely see an influx of out-of-state patients.



The UCLA campus in Los Angeles on Feb. 18, 2022.

non-campus clinic, the report estimated. The average cost of medication at facilities near campus is more than \$600, according to the report, and the average wait time is a week.

"If one part of the population is able to get pregnant, has to go through hoops and overcome barriers to terminate a pregnancy, and in trying to do that has to miss class, that's kind of an equity issue," said UCSF OB-GYN and abortion specialist Josie Urbina. "You want everybody to have the same access, to have the same opportunities, to be able to concentrate and focus on their studies and their coursework without having to take time off."

As campuses start providing medication abortions, many students will spend less time on the road and will see out-of-pocket costs decrease. Getting a medication abortion often in-

volves a couple of appointments – either in person or virtually – and receiving a prescription.

The University of California Student Health Insurance Plan, which is required for students, covers the costs of medication abortions.

However, students in the Cal State system – and those who waive the insurance requirement at the UC – will have to pay to receive the medications. Sacramento State University expects the cost of medications would be between \$60 and \$80.

“There’s still a lot of areas where abortion access maybe is less than perfect or varies between different campuses and surrounding communities, or for different students within those communities,” said Alex Miles, chairperson of government relations for the UC Student Association. “Reproductive health care access, in general, has to be central and fully accessible.”

To meet the Jan. 1 deadline, Cal State and UC campuses without medication abortion access – including UC San Diego, UC Davis and UC Riverside – will have to both train providers and update information on websites so students know the service is available. The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed some of that preparation, said Annie Sumberg, senior director for medication abortion access for Essential Access Health, a reproductive health advocacy and consulting group that is helping campuses gear up.

Essential Access Health is offering Zoom training sessions for UC and Cal State campus providers that give an overview of the new law, how to administer a medication abortion and how to support patients after they end their pregnancies.

Several campuses said they are considering offering telehealth appointments for medication abortion and allowing students to pick up pills at a pharmacy closer to home.

The FDA approved having abortion medications sent by mail in 2021, and demand for telehealth has grown during the pandemic. Physical exams and ultrasounds are not necessary to safely end a pregnancy, said Urbina, the OB-GYN at UCSF.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo’s assistant vice president for health and wellbeing, Tina Hadaway-Mellis, also raised the possibility of having prescriptions mailed to students. Increased access to telehealth, she said, has been one of “very few silver linings as a result of the pandemic.”

“If (students) prefer to be someplace that offers them a sense of privacy, or if they don’t live very close to campus, if they’re only coming to campus one or two days a week, but they live an hour away, a telehealth appointment would be much more approachable and convenient,” Hadaway-Mellis said.

UC Berkeley has been offering medication abortions at the campus Tang Center since the fall of 2020, according to University Health Services spokesperson Tami Cate.

The campus has provided 34 medication abortions since 2020, and students are often able to get an appointment the same day, Cate said. Currently, UC Berkeley only administers medication abortions on site, but it might add telehealth options in the future, she said.

Enabling access for community and out-of-state abortion seekers

Directing students toward campus medical centers is particularly important, abortion rights activists say, because California is expecting a surge of people seeking abortions from states where it is now illegal.

UCLA’s Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy expects the influx could be as large as 8,000 to 16,100 people each year.

There are also several regions throughout the state where abortions are already difficult to access. These “abortion deserts” are especially concentrated in California’s Central Valley, said Larissa Mercado-López, Fresno State University Chair of Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies.

“We have large swaths of land without abortion providers or even comprehensive reproductive health clinics,” Mercado-López said.

Forty percent of California’s counties do not currently have an abortion provider, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research and advocacy organization. There are several Cal State and UC campuses located in these areas, Cohen said, including CSU Bakersfield, CSU Fullerton and CSU Stanislaus.

#### Raising awareness

Regardless of where individual campuses are in implementing the new law, advocates stress the importance of raising awareness of abortion services at student health centers.

“It’s not well advertised,” said Esmeralda Quintero-Cubillan, president of the UC Student Association. “Most students, if you were to ask them, would not know we offered medicated abortions or that you could pursue reproductive health care services.”

Many anti-abortion groups, including the California Family Council, opposed the requirement for public universities to provide medication abortion before it passed the Legislature, but did not return CalMatters’ requests for comment.

Pro-abortion activists say they are gearing up to educate campus communities about the availability of medication abortion. URGE, a group that organizes young people to support reproductive rights, is conducting presentations on medication abortion to gender studies classes and students pursuing health-related careers.

The presentations highlight the safety of medication abortions, introduce audiences to the new law and provide an overview of the reproductive justice movement, said Callie Flores, a student at UC Merced who sits on the group’s student advisory board. The board also conducts anonymous surveys that ask students for input on what their campuses should be doing to support abortion access, and shares the results with campus health centers.

“We try to push like that, you know, being abortion positive means that there’s no shame, no stigma and no apologies connected to getting the abortion,” Flores said. “Abortion isn’t a bad word. It’s not a bad decision. It’s a decision that people make for themselves, and it’s totally valid.”

Reeling after the Supreme Court’s ruling overturning *Roe v. Wade*, Flores said activism has given her a sense of purpose and made her feel like she’s making a difference.

“I gotta do something with this anger,” she said.



Mallika Seshadri reports on higher education at Cal Matters

CalMatters is a nonprofit, nonpartisan media venture explaining California policies and politics.



JONI AUDEN LAND

## POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates at least seven landfills in Oregon will close by 2050, although exact closure dates can fluctuate.

# The Building Of Oregon's First New Landfill In 30 Years Is Shrouded In Secrecy

**A**s Oregon is facing a wave of landfill closures in coming decades, a group of mysterious investors hopes to cash in on Lake County officials' willingness to become a destination for all that trash.

Terry Crawford usually knows what's going on in northern Lake County, one of Oregon's most remote regions. She heads the Christmas Valley Chamber of Commerce, produces a monthly newsletter and serves on the county planning commission.

But it was only a few weeks ago that she first heard of plans to build Oregon's largest landfill somewhere among the sagebrush she calls home. She saw a post about it on Facebook. "I'd say there's a huge lack of transparency," Crawford said at her Christmas Valley home. "How is it going to benefit us?"

Lake County leaders, state officials and a private consultant held multiple closed-door meetings concerning a new regional landfill as early as January 2021. But those behind the project have yet to disclose key details about where it might be built,

how many people it would employ and how it could impact the environment, even as they take steps to purchase property.

Even less has been divulged about the group of investors promising to finance – and presumably profit – from such a landfill. The public face of this group, Don Jensen of Salem, won't disclose his financial backers. Jensen himself has little experience siting new landfills, except for one in Idaho with a history of state violations.

Lake County's plan comes as landfills across Oregon are expected to close in upcoming decades, leaving many communities looking east for places to send future generations' waste.

### Growing demand

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates at least seven landfills in Oregon will close by 2050, although exact closure dates can fluctuate.

It's been nearly 30 years since Oregon sited a new landfill, and it's unlikely the state will ever approve another facility in



JONI AUDEN LAND / OPB

The Knott Landfill, July 6, 2022, is the sole landfill in Deschutes County and is anticipated to be full by 2029, necessitating closure.

## JPR News Focus: Politics & Government

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the Willamette Valley, its most populous region. That's because of the area's extremely wet conditions, said Shane Latimer, an environmental planner in Portland who specializes in landfill permitting for SCS Engineers.

"We will eventually be exporting most of our trash to the eastern drier parts of Oregon," Latimer said.

Across the state, local governments are opting to ship their garbage to several large regional landfills. Where there used to be more than 100 smaller landfills across Oregon, there are now only several regional facilities, Latimer said.

Lake County's vision includes serving areas as nearby as neighboring Klamath and Deschutes counties, and those hundreds of miles away, like Marion County and Portland metro locales.

Jensen, the developer, has proposed buying about 8,000 acres, with around 1,000 of that initially permitted for the landfill.

This scale would make it the largest landfill in either Oregon or Washington.

Lake County Commissioner Mark Albertson sees an opportunity to create local jobs in a part of Oregon starving for industry.

"It's extremely important," Albertson said of the project. "A million and a half bucks (in annual host fees), plus anything else that we can get to provide services throughout the county, is very important."

The county's roughly 8,000 residents mostly rely on timber and agriculture, he said, but reductions in those industries have severely limited job opportunities for residents.

Sitting in his office in the county seat of Lakeview, Albertson pointed out a row of empty storefronts, some with windows covered in newspaper, others bearing signs that read, "I believe in Lakeview."

"People might think what we ship most of is timber and hay, but in reality, we're sending our kids out, because there's nowhere for them to work," he said.

### Unanswered questions

When Don Jensen pitched Lake County commissioners on a landfill plan last year, he didn't have to worry about competition.

The commissioners signed a memorandum of understanding with Jensen in June 2021, without shopping the idea around to other developers.

A month earlier, Jensen and his attorney produced a draft of the agreement in order to avoid a more public process, emails to county officials show. Governments typically solicit competitive bids on major projects, so companies can make public proposals for those contracts. In this case, the county isn't paying Jensen any money, and Jensen said a bid is not needed because he's assuming the financial risk.

"We think that Lake County is a prime location for our regional landfill," Jensen told commissioners at the time. "We

think it would really benefit the folks from Christmas Valley."

In exchange, "the county agrees... to expedite the (permitting) review" for the landfill, according to its agreement with Jensen, although it's unclear what that will entail.

Albertson said he still does not know who Jensen's business partners are. He also has not received a business plan, despite him and Oregon Governor Kate Brown's office asking for one multiple times.

Commissioners have held just one public meeting about the project so far.

Jensen's connections to the Oregon waste industry appear scant. His only previous landfill experience was at the Simco Road Regional Landfill, outside Boise, Idaho. He said he oversaw the opening of a new section of that facility in 2014.

The Idaho landfill caught on fire multiple times. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality fined it \$20,000 for multiple violations in 2019. One report noted that in 2018, "it appeared free liquids were being poured into a dump truck bed, which then released the liquids to the landfill."

The violations also noted the landfill had failed to resolve years of previous violations dating back to 2012.

Jensen said issues with the Idaho landfill existed before he became involved, and that the facility has "made great strides to get everything into compliance."

His personal finances appear to have been littered with unpaid debts. Jensen filed for bankruptcy in 2010 after owing hundreds of thousands of dollars in back taxes to the IRS, as well as state and local governments. He also failed to pay back a small business loan he took out in 2006 for his film production company, Dirtpoor Films, costing taxpayers nearly \$50,000, according to the Statesman Journal.

Jensen said he, like many other developers, was hit hard by the Great Recession, as he had many housing projects underway at the time.

How qualified his partners are now remains unknown — Jensen repeatedly declined to name any of them. And as for a business plan, Jensen said it will be drafted after purchasing a property.

"If at the end of the day, this doesn't work, we'll own a big chunk of land," he said.

### Buying the land

Jensen and his partners recently entered into negotiations to buy several thousand acres in northern Lake County for \$9 million.

Ken Hufford, a rancher in Fort Rock, said he pulled out of the deal after he could not find a replacement property for his ranch.

County officials have mulled numerous other ways to purchase enough land to make the landfill viable, such as buying it from the Oregon Department of State Lands or private timber companies, emails obtained by OPB show.

Jensen said he and his partners expect to purchase property

The commissioners signed a memorandum of understanding with Jensen in June 2021, without shopping the idea around to other developers.

within the next two months. He said engineers and geologists will survey prospective sites first to make sure they are suitable, but acknowledged there's still a risk.

"We really couldn't have asked for a better spot, it's just one of those ideal locations," Jensen said of northern Lake County. "There could be something that could pop up, and we're just back at ground zero."

Latimer, the environmental planner, said it's highly unusual for a developer to purchase land before receiving the necessary approvals from state regulators.

That's because just one of many factors – endangered species, proximity to airports, water rights, or the presence of cultural resources – can each kill a project before it even begins.

State agencies shared some of those concerns, emails show. Greg Svelund with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality wrote to colleagues in February 2021, saying that any landfill would face a "daunting" process to receiving the required permits.

"There are many technical aspects an applicant needs to address," Svelund wrote. "There's a reason this hasn't happened in Oregon in several decades."

And even though Latimer predicts Oregon's garbage will eventually go east, he said many landfills currently have enough capacity to last for the next fifty years. He's not sure the market demand exists, especially with a large landfill in Arlington already in operation.

Even state agencies noted that Arlington's landfill, currently the largest in the state, has at least 150 years of lifespan remaining.

"Beggars the question of why do they need another?" Larry Holzgang of Business Oregon wrote in an email to other officials.

Jensen and Lake County have placed heavy emphasis on receiving garbage from Central Oregon's Deschutes County, where a landfill is set to close in 2029. The county is among the fastest growing in the state.

But that's looking more and more unlikely, as Deschutes County is several years into plans to build its own landfill.

Portions of northern Lake County are also home to sage grouse habitat and the county has a moratorium on new water rights due to a declining aquifer. Both issues are potential roadblocks to a future landfill.

For Lake County resident and planning commissioner Terry Crawford, the lack of a public process surrounding the project is the latest instance of a county government failing to listen to the concerns of its more remote residents.

Fort Rock and Christmas Valley, near where the landfill could be built, are two hours away from the county seat. Crawford said it's difficult to attend public meetings and many residents in the area don't receive the local newspaper.

Information, even when publicly announced, is not easy to come by.

"There is no trust, because we've seen it over and over again," Crawford said.

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Joni Auden Land reports on Bend and Central Oregon.

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# Griner's Swift Punishment Carries A Lesson

**Y**ou may not know about Brittney Griner or her stardom in the WNBA. You may not care that Russian airport guards caught her with a cannabis vape cartridge in her luggage. You may not believe that a basketball player with a medical marijuana prescription is worth a convicted arms dealer in a contemplated prisoner swap.

I hadn't really followed her career. I don't listen to sports radio. I knew that WNBA stars have to play overseas during the off-season to make ends meet. And we all know that Russia has devolved into a police state.

Is Griner a convicted felon or a political prisoner? Putin makes no distinction.

Something altogether different caught my eye when Griner was sentenced to nine years in a Russian prison. It wasn't the severity of her punishment. It was the speed. This won't be a popular sentiment, but we can learn a lesson here.

Griner was detained at the Moscow Airport Feb. 17 and charged with smuggling drugs into Russia. Her trial began July 1. She pled guilty. She was sentenced Aug. 4, less than six months after her arrest-slash-abduction.

Contrast that verdict with Alex Jones, punished last week for fabricating lies against Sandy Hook families. That took almost a decade.

Most rioters who besieged the U.S. Capitol 18 months ago have not faced any consequences.

Anyone charged with a federal crime in the United States waits years for a verdict. There's a vast difference between pursuing justice and meting out punishment, but our systems take too long.

Crime is reduced when consequences are swift and certain. When cause and effect are stretched too far apart, their connection fades into an abstract concept. We don't want anyone to be wrongly convicted, and each safeguard creates more delay. How are we to respond when the delays create problems themselves?

Move the argument away from criminal justice and it becomes easier to see its debilitating effect.

After the Holiday Farm wildfires, the most hopeful and determined residents wanted to rebuild almost immediately. Lane County was taking five months to process building per-

mits. Contractors couldn't give guaranteed bids because lumber prices were skyrocketing. Once plans were approved, they were no longer affordable.

China built a hospital for coronavirus patients in a week, and they've done this more than once.

It's easy to say that's too fast. It's harder to determine what's too slow. I'm asking like a kid in the back seat, "Are we there yet?" Have our approval systems gotten so slow that they no longer serve people's needs? Justice delayed is justice denied.

Our processes are even more sclerotic for environmental concerns.

Dioxin cleanup at Eugene's shuttered J.H. Baxter wood treatment facility could take decades. Foster Farms wants to renew a critical permit but they have no plans to reopen their chicken processing plant in Creswell.

Permission takes longer than production.

More flexibility in staffing would allow government to process permit surges without increasing costs. Delays carry real costs.

Citizens must believe that their government works for them. When that faith fades, bad things happen.

Have our approval systems gotten so slow that they no longer serve people's needs? Justice delayed is justice denied.



Don Kahle (fridays@dksez.com) writes a column each Wednesday and Sunday for *The Register-Guard* and archives past columns at [www.dksez.com](http://www.dksez.com). The post Griner's Swift Punishment Carries a Lesson appeared first on dkSez :: :: :: Don Kahle's blog.



DAVE JACKSON

I've attended countless concerts over the course of several decades, and this was the second time I've been awestruck by a Tank and the Bangas show.

## A Little Slice Of New Orleans

**T**he Trombone Shorty Voodoo Threauxdown Tour just finished its California run, showcasing a multi-generational spectrum of musicians from the legendary city of New Orleans.

Since first visiting New Orleans on a business trip in 1998 (no, really, someone thought that was a good business decision), I've stayed a big fan of the scene there. In the following years, I've returned three times, twice for the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, a yearly celebration of music and culture from the area.

Just about every element of American culture became a little better once it was filtered through New Orleans – the food, the style and arguably most important, the music. It's known after all as the birthplace of jazz. Home to a history of musical pioneers such as Louis Armstrong, Professor Longhair, Malcolm John Rebenack Jr (better known as Dr. John), and both the Neville and Marsalis families – New Orleans has enough unique culture to practically be its own country.

Troy Andrews, otherwise known as singer, bandleader and multi-instrumentalist 'Trombone Shorty' made his first Jazzfest appearance at four years old as a guest of Bo Diddley. He led his first brass band at age six. Now, in his mid-30s, he leads a tour: Trombone Shorty's Voodoo Threauxdown. It started in 2018 but went dark in 2020 due to the pandemic and only began again this year. I had a chance to catch the show in Santa Barbara on August 13.

A traditional New Orleans Brass band, Soul Rebels lit the fuse for an explosive night of all things New Orleans. As if they had been plucked from the French Quarter during Mardi Gras, it was the perfect high energy keynote to start the evening.

After Soul Rebels was Dumpstaphunk. Founded in 2003 to play a gig at Jazzfest, singer/organist Ivan Neville (son of Aaron Neville) and his cousin Ivan Neville on guitar, and their band took the stage for a set of songs from The Meters, a band including Art Neville, often mentioned alongside James Brown as early developers of funk. They were joined by George Porter Jr. (original bassist/vocalist of The Meters) and Cyril Neville (Ivan's uncle) on vocals. The Meters defined the slinky, dirty funk sound with hits like *Cissy Strut* and *Look-a-Py-Py*. Funk doesn't get much better. Dumpstaphunk treated the material with the love and respect due the elder statesmen of NOLA who joined them on stage.

Next was the highlight of the evening for me, Tank and the Bangas featuring Big Freedia. From New Orleans, Torianna "Tank" Ball and company won the 2017 Tiny Desk Contest, combining soul and hip-hop for something truly their own. A Tank and the Bangas show is a spectacle to witness. The music



New Orleans-based funk-soul Tank and the Bangas won the 2017 NPR Tiny Desk Contest. The group is fronted by Tarronia "Tank" Ball on lead vocals.

is tight and groovy and all over the map while Tank's smart, progressive hip-hop flavored vocals fall somewhere in between Beyoncé, Sharon Jones and Nina Simone. Freddie Ross Jr "Big Freedia" joined Tank and the Bangas for several songs. The "Queen Diva", as Freedia refers to himself, helped to make bounce music – a form of booty-shaking rap with a heavy beat, mainstream. His voice was sampled by Beyoncé in her song *Formation*, and he worked with Tank and Co. on their song and video *Big*. An already high-energy show got hotter when Freedia hit the stage for *Big* and some songs from his catalog. I've attended countless concerts over the course of several decades, and this was the second time I've been awestruck by a Tank and the Bangas show. The vibe is positive, even on songs that take on heavy subjects and the music makes it impossible to stand still. Their presence rolls over you like, well, a tank.

Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue closed the night. They're touring on the new album *Lifted*. Shorty is a mixologist when it comes to music. He's well-versed in New Orleans jazz but adept at rock and soul and you get a lot of all of it during one of his shows. The music is high energy throughout with ample

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The grant is statewide, but the majority of Oregon's marijuana farms are in the southern part of the state.

Funding is being distributed through the Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant, run by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. That program fund was created in 2018 to assist local law enforcement and district attorney's offices in addressing the illegal marijuana market.

During the grant's July 2020-July 2021 cycle, law enforcement agencies seized almost \$3.5 million in cash, 156 firearms, over 500,000 marijuana plants and 15,000 pounds of processed marijuana.

Keese says Unete works closely with law enforcement during these raids to ensure that farm workers caught in the middle get the help they need.

She adds they've tapped multiple legal groups to help with this new grant funding, including the Northwest Workers Justice Project. Corinna Spencer says wage claims can vary from person to person and that many of the workers don't even know if the cannabis farms they're working on are legal or not.

"If it's an employer who is operating illegally who may be involved in some sort of criminal activity that's more widespread, there may not be safe or available remedies for our clients," she says.

Spencer says when farms are legal, it's easier to file a lawsuit. But with illegal operations, the farm owners often provide false names and burner phone numbers, leaving workers with no way to find them once they're left without a paycheck. Keese says some of the wage claims can take over a year to resolve.

It's not just illegal operations that are found stealing money from farm workers. Keese says owners of licensed marijuana farms sometimes contract work out to other managers, and those contractors may refuse to pay workers.

"The only way we can make sure which one it is [legal or illegal], is if they open the doors and do inspections," says Morales, complaining about the lack of supervision of cannabis farms in the state.

The Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission only knows the locations of licensed growers, and Keese says sometimes the inspection process takes so long that growers have time to hide anything illegal.

"They [OLCC] go and they see that the plants are big. And then when they go back to actually test, the plants are babies so the THC levels are very low," Keese says.

Morales would like to see the OLCC be more aggressive in inspecting cannabis grows, like conducting more surprise inspections to prevent growers from hiding anything illicit.

Many of these farm workers are afraid of the threats of violence or legal repercussions they could face if they seek help, making it harder for groups like Unete.

Keese says they've only been successful so far because of how long they've spent embedded in the farmworker community.

"We've been here for 25 years," says Keese. "People know that if they come here this is a safe place for them."

Spencer adds that additional protections are available for undocumented workers who come forward and talk to police, including ways to get legal status.

Keese plans on leveraging the trust they've built with Unete to refer these workers to other legal aid groups involved in the grant. She hopes the money will help them reach more people.

"But the biggest piece is gonna be the education piece," she says. "Just to let people know what their rights are, who to contact for wage claims, things like that."

As more farm workers understand their rights and the resources available to them, organizers hope the less likely their employers will be to withhold wages in future seasons.

The state funding is generous in its timeline. These organizations have through 2025 to spend it all, giving them time to build out more programming, education, and outreach to help farm workers recover.

The programming from this funding is expected to be fully up and running by fall, 2022. Spencer says Northwest Workers Justice Project is currently hiring a paralegal to travel to Southern Oregon to help with this influx of wage claims. They're hoping to help as many people as possible who work in cannabis cultivation.

"Operations are cycling through a lot of workers. Because if they're not paying, eventually workers tend to find a way to escape or leave if they're not getting paid," Spencer says. "We believe it to be a much bigger problem than we can currently see."



After graduating from Oregon State University, Roman came to JPR as part of the Charles Snowden Program for Excellence in Journalism in 2019. He then joined Delaware Public Media as a Report For America fellow before returning to the west coast.

## Recordings

Continued from previous page

space given to his two guitarists, tenor and baritone sax players, and even his back-up singers get to solo in the spotlight. Several of them even joined him on a lap around the expensive seats trading solos. Later in the set Shorty dueled with bassist Mike "Bass" Ballard, sans the rest of Orleans Avenue, taking their licks into experimental territory. When the band returned, Shorty stepped in as conductor in a call and response where he clapped out a rhythm and directed them to play it back to him in sync in a great display of how tight such a large ensemble can play.

Various circumstances over the last few years have kept me away from Jazzfest. This show will be a nice snack to hold me over, until next spring.



Dave Jackson curates the music on JPR's Rhythm and News Service, manages music staff and hosts *Open Air*, JPR's hand-picked house blend of music. He loves discovering great new music and sharing it.

## Ship Ahoy!

Many years ago, at one of my first Oregon archaeology conferences, I saw a fascinating session on a mysterious 17th century “beeswax shipwreck.” Nicknamed after the large blocks of beeswax that had been washing up on the Nehalem Spit for centuries, this ship has been central to legend and lore on the northwest Oregon coast—it is even rumored to be the inspiration for the beloved “Goonies” movie of my youth. It’s been well over a decade since that conference, and researchers now know that this wreck was the Spanish galleon *Santo Cristo de Burgos*, which left Manila in 1693 loaded with wax, Chinese porcelains, 220 crew and 16 passengers.

On a recent episode of *Underground History*, we were joined by Scott Williams, president of the Maritime Archaeological Society, and Robert Kentta, head of cultural resources for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Williams has been leading the hunt for the Beeswax wreck for years, and has pulled together collaborators from across disciplines and around the globe to help in the hunt. Kentta brings invaluable tribal knowledge to the project, including oral histories about what happened to the ship’s crew, where the ship was located, and how the resources on the ship served as a boon to Indigenous peoples living on the coast at the time of the wreck.

While local museums and residents have long curated artifacts from the famed wreck, it is only recently that Williams and his team have been able to recover pieces believed to be from the ship itself. In 2019, local fisherman Craig Andes recognized what he believed to be ship timbers in sea caves north of the community of Manzanita. Although skeptical at first, Williams was eventually convinced to sample the timbers, which dated to the right era and were consistent with the wood used to build the ship. This exciting new data spurred into action a complex plan to recover the timbers (which was then promptly disrupted by COVID). Fast forward to June of 2022, when a



John Pouly and James Delgado, examining the largest beam that was recovered.

team of archaeologists, state park employees, sheriff’s deputies, and search and rescue teams went to work. Due to the location of the timbers within caves along the rugged shoreline only accessible during low tide, timing of this rescue mission was everything. The timbers were too heavy to carry out by hand, and were therefore creatively swaddled in life jackets and hauled out by jet skis.

Once safely recovered, timbers were taken to the Columbia River Maritime Museum where they are being carefully dried and preserved for additional testing. While research in the lab is ongoing, the team is also continuing to pursue the location of



One of the beams, very worn but showing spike holes and two side notches that appear to be cultural.

# Underground History

Continued from previous page



MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Some of the recovered timbers from the galleon.

the rest of the ship. Remote sensing technology has greatly improved over the life of the project, and each new discovery narrows the search area and helps researchers understand what exactly happened to the ship all those years ago.

As a “terrestrial” archaeologist—one that sticks largely to dry land—the scale and scope of this project continues to impress me (and now I am now trying to figure out how to justify the use of jet skis in future projects... you know, for science). The success of this mission is largely due to the collaborative nature of the project, and the genuine enthusiasm and passion for the search by all involved. If you would like to learn more about the history of the *Santo Cristo de Burgos* and the efforts to find her, check out the 2018 *Oregon Historical Quarterly* volume that was dedicated to the topic. The entire work is now available online for free through the Oregon History Society website: <https://www.ohs.org/oregon-historical-quarterly/back-issues/summer-2018.cfm> The 2022 recovery work was also filmed by National Geographic and will hopefully be available for viewing soon!

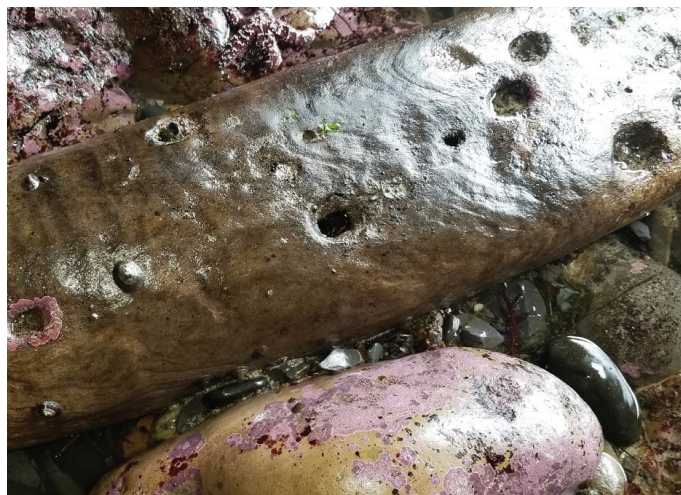


Chelsea Rose is an archaeologist with the Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology (SOULA) and co-host of the 2022 Oregon Heritage Excellence Award winning *Underground History*, a monthly segment that airs during the *Jefferson Exchange* on JPR's News & Information service.



MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The large beam still in situ in the cave, as it was found.



MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A detail of the large beam in situ, showing one of the square spike holes roughly in the center of the image.

**CHRISTOPHER  
KIMBALL**

# Greek Chicken And Potato Traybake

**T**he Greek dish known as kotopoulo skorthato typically is called “Greek garlic-lemon chicken” in English, but the ensemble also includes potatoes, making it a delicious complete meal. For our take on the classic, we use our trusty traybake technique—we roast the ingredients on a rimmed baking sheet in a hot oven to ensure the quickest cooking possible and to develop nice caramelization. At the end, we also toss in black olives, dill and capers to ratchet up the flavors. If using chicken breasts, try to purchase pieces that are close in size so they cook at the same rate.

Don't use extra-large bone-in chicken breasts if you can help it; 12-ounce pieces work best. If unavoidable, keep in mind that bone-in breasts weighing about 1 pound each require 40 to 50 minutes of roasting.

MAKES 4 SERVINGS | 45 MINUTES

## Ingredients

1 Teaspoon dried oregano  
¼–½ Teaspoon red pepper flakes  
Kosher salt and ground black pepper  
4 12-Ounce bone-in, skin-on chicken breasts or 3 pounds bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs, trimmed and patted dry  
2 Tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
1½ Pounds medium yukon gold potatoes, not peeled, cut into 1-inch-thick wedges  
2 Lemons, halved crosswise  
8 Medium garlic cloves, peeled  
½ Cup pitted kalamata olives, roughly chopped  
2 Tablespoons drained capers  
3 Tablespoons roughly chopped fresh dill, divided

## Directions

1. Heat the oven to 475°F with a rack in the middle position. In a large bowl, stir together the oregano, pepper flakes, 1½ teaspoons salt and ½ teaspoon black pepper. Sprinkle 2 teaspoons of the mix onto all sides of the chicken. To the remaining seasoning mix in the bowl, add the oil, potatoes, lemon halves and garlic, then toss to coat.
2. Place the garlic in the center of a rimmed baking sheet, then arrange the chicken, skin up, around the garlic; this placement helps prevent the garlic from scorching during roasting. Arrange the lemons, cut sides up, and the potatoes in an even layer around the chicken. Roast until the thickest part of the breasts (if using) reaches 160°F and the thickest part of the largest thigh (if using) reaches 175°F, about 30 minutes.
3. Using tongs, transfer the chicken and lemon halves to a serving platter. Push the potatoes to the edge of the baking sheet, leaving the garlic in the center. Using a fork, mash the garlic to a rough paste. Add the olives, capers and 2 tablespoons of the dill to the baking sheet, then, using a wide metal spatula, stir and toss the ingredients, scraping up any browned bits.
4. Transfer the potato mixture to the platter, placing it around the chicken. Sprinkle with the remaining 1 tablespoon dill.



*Christopher Kimball's Milk Street* in downtown Boston—at 177 Milk Street—is home to the editorial offices and cooking school. It also is where they record *Christopher Kimball's Milk Street* television and radio shows. *Milk Street* is changing how we cook by searching the world for bold, simple recipes and techniques. For more information, go to [177milkstreet.com](http://177milkstreet.com). You can hear *Milk Street Radio* Sundays at 3:00pm on JPR's *News & Information* service.

# POETRY

HARRY PIPER

## Almeda Fire Howl

How can the sun still shine and the birds sing?  
Don't they know that nothing is the same?  
My mind is smoke and ash, and my ears ring.

Everything explodes. Everything.  
Here and gone. This living's not a game.  
How can the sun still shine and the birds sing?

Fire so hot it vaporized the siding.  
The trailer park was one big flame.  
My mind is smoke and ash, and my ears ring.

Evacuated with three minutes' warning,  
I drove away with nothing but my name.  
How can the sun still shine and the birds sing?

I built it all, and then it's back to nothing.  
I'm homeless now with none but God to blame.  
My mind is smoke and ash, and my ears ring.

God had me hanging on a string,  
Then the string burned. Has God no shame?  
How can the sun still shine and the birds sing?  
My mind is smoke and ash, and my ears ring.

## Taking Care of Horses

I love to work with horses,  
especially the times between the rides:  
life's repeated meaning in their leavings  
that I pick up with patient exercise—

the artistry of bales of hay,  
the swather and the baler and its knoter  
squeezing flakes together  
into alfalfa cookies—

low rumbles waiting for their grain,  
anticipation, quiet feeding chuckles—  
clean water brimming the corner buckets—  
the earthy smell of bodies in the stalls.

Then as I walk back to the house,  
the contented sound behind me  
of hay being chewed  
soothes the human news.

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Harry Piper has had poems published, or accepted for publication, in *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Jefferson Monthly*, *Minnesota Monthly*, *Twin Cities*, *Fly Rod & Reel*, and other magazines. He has an M.A. in English with an Emphasis on Writing from the University of Minnesota in 1987 and is a retired trial attorney living in Ashland with his wife Mary, a dog, two cats, and three horses.

Writers may submit original poetry for publication in *Jefferson Journal*.

Email 3–6 poems, a brief bio, and your mailing address in one attachment to [jeffmopoetry@gmail.com](mailto:jeffmopoetry@gmail.com), or send 3–6 poems, a brief bio, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Amy Miller, Poetry Editor  
*Jefferson Journal*  
1250 Siskiyou Blvd  
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